

# Daily Planet

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FREE

# RESTORING THE SNYDERVERSE

*What's the key to restoring Director Zack Snyder's vision?*

**By Jainam Turakhia**  
Daily Planet contributor

We've seen Zack's controversial and realistic take on superheroes. We've seen him coring his movies with heart and philosophy. But what is the one element that separates his universe from the others?

Is it the Superman that has human emotions or the one with the black suit?

Is it the Batman that kills or is it the Batman that swears?

Is it The Wonder Woman that shows no mercy in a war or is it the Wonder Woman who gave up everything humanity?

The answer to this has been in front of us since the beginning of his saga. Snyder uses dreams to tell his narratives of the story. He "dreams" of a complexly stronger story with ominous tales of a possible future. He uses foreshadowing to provoke heroic actions. In "Man of Steel," we saw Superman having a nightmare of a world where Zod terraforms Earth into Krypton.

This is the first indication of where Zack wants to head with his characters. He loves the idea of real consequences and dreams play out the most crucial role in his stories. As in "Man of Steel," this nightmare shows Kal-El what



Henry Cavill as Superman in "Batman vs Superman." Henry Cavill has been playing Clark Kent / Superman since his 2013 debut in "Man of Steel." Photo courtesy of Warner Media

could happen if he shakes hands with Zod. Hence, he fought him. He killed him because he knew Zod would not stop. He couldn't let him wipe out the human race. But we do see consequences. We do see him worried about the nightmare and we also see people's view of how they see Superman saving the world.

For Superman, it was important to stop Zod. Stop. Not kill. Hence why we see the Black Zero Fight. He could've killed Zod way before the rogue Kryptonian combatant realized how powerful he can become.

The consequences are seen in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" where we see how divid-

ed the world's view is regarding the Man of Steel. Some love him, others despise him. Some fear him, while others worship him. In reality, he simply is trying to live a normal life and these opinions do worry Clark — a lot.

One specific portion of the movie this can be seen in is the 'Day of the Dead' scene where we

see Superman's worried face after he saves a girl. Now, there could be multiple interpretations of this scene. The one I would like to go with is that he has seen himself standing over skulls in the "Man of Steel" nightmare mentioned earlier, and seeing people here face painted as skeletons for the 'Day of the Dead' celebration

reminds him of that nightmare and how many died on his watch.

Another character that has nightmares is Batman. His existential crisis in "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice" is told via nightmares. The movie itself starts with a nightmare where he dreams about his parents dying. He calls it a beautiful lie. The reason being explained by the director himself on Vero.

"The idea, that in the dream the righteous man, the good man, seeks justice, but that quest lead him into darkness and his own moral code is in question or may only be a construct of his grief," Zack Snyder said. "So the lie of the light becomes justice equals light. For Batman it's the opposite."

The second dream sequence is where he sees a Man-Bat at his parents' grave. We see how badly his past is haunting him, affecting him. How much he's been through. How it has changed his perspective of the world. Now Another character that has nightmares is Batman. His existence in "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice" is told via nightmares. We see his past in a nightmare scene where he sees Man-Bat. We see how badly his past is affecting him. How much he's been through. How it has changed his perspective of the world.

"Twenty Years in Gotham, we've seen what promises are worth. How many good guys have left? How many stayed that way?" Affleck's Bruce Wayne said in **See Zack's vision on page 3**



Ben Affleck as Batman with Director Zack Snyder on the "Batman vs Superman" set. Photo courtesy Warner Bros.

## Why Zack Snyder's vision inspires me

**By Zack Benz**

Daily Planet Editor-in-chief

"Batman vs Superman" was the last superhero movie I remember enjoying. Unexpected loss drained my emotions away for years until I was reminded of the love I had for heroes. In part, I have Zack Snyder (and my grandmother) to thank for that.

I remember my first time watching "Batman v Superman" with such vivid retrospection. It was 2016 and my forever best friend, Whitney Graham, and I plotted months in advance to see the premiere.

Whitney and I have been friends for over two decades now. A relationship written in the stars, apparently, given our preferred heroes. She's a huge fan of Batman. I'm a huge fan of Superman. We needed to see this movie.

So we did. I loved it. The theatrics, the flow, the cinemacism and all out creative direction was captivating. Director Zack Snyder's take on beloved characters inspired me. Lois Lane's investigative antics to uncover the truth were so well rounded. Wonder Woman's appearance was breathtakingly natural. Lex and Bruce's

motives were grounded. Everything truly made sense.

It was the last movie I truly remember enjoying. Before post "Batman vs Superman," I practically enjoyed every Superman related title. I related to the hero. Like Clark, I too grew up isolated on a family farm. Raised by my grandparents, I dreamed of an exciting life as a journalist in a massive metropolis full of life. I loved my family but I wanted to make a difference. After seeing the movie, however, my childlike spark of joy seemed to wither away.

2016 was a difficult year for me. Soon after watching "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice," my father figure, my grandfather, died at the grips of cancer. It was devastating. Then, 10 months later, my mother died from an accidental overdose. Neither death was expected, and neither death has been accepted.

I struggled with their loss throughout the next four years. I missed my role models when I came out as gay. I missed them when I earned my AA and BA degrees. I missed them when I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. I missed them when I constructed dailyplanetdc.com. Depression set in. I found it difficult to enjoy anything I had

loved before. Whenever revisiting a favorite movie, I'd find myself thinking about my losses. Whenever I'd sit through epic premieres, I'd wish my mom was sitting beside me. I grew stagnant. Despondent. I saw no end in sight. I prayed for relief. It felt like I was under this shroud of discontent, moving through the motions of life severed from emotional connection.

At first I thought that I may be suffering from "superhero fatigue," but this wasn't the case. This lifeless feeling inside consumed everything. I faked emotions. I felt like a sham, an empty husk of who I once was and I told no-one.

Then, on Fathers Day in 2020, I lost my grandmother. She was my favorite person. Inspirationally optimistic and extremely supportive, she represented everything I could be. Her loss shook me most. It shook me out from my funk and brought me back into reality. Her death inspired me to live my life to the fullest because that's what she wanted. That's what she told me. But it was slow traction. A disdain for life was hard to shuck away.

Soon after, months prior to her loss, my love for heroes was

**See inspiration on page 3**

## Democratic leaders push back after Biden says he will not eliminate up to \$50,000 in student debt

**By Lois Lane**

Daily Planet Reporter

At a town hall hosted by CNN on Tuesday night, Biden expressed reluctance in forgiving up to \$50,000 in federal student loans, saying, "I will not make that happen." On Wednesday, Democratic leaders pushed back on Biden's statement and said they will continue to pressure the US president on this subject.

During a CNN town hall on Tuesday, an attendee asked Biden about Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Elizabeth Warren's proposal to cancel up to \$50,000 in federal student debt per borrower.

"It depends on whether or not you go to a public university or a private university," Biden said.

The president said he doesn't want to forgive the debts of people who attended elite schools such as Harvard and Yale who

often go on to make high salaries.

"I'm prepared to write off \$10,000 debt, but not 50, because I don't think I have the authority to do it by signing an executive order," Biden said.

The president further said that families who make less than \$125,000 and whose kids go to a state university should attend for free. He also expressed support for repaying debt as a portion of one's salary.

## Winter storm causes power outages in Texas and prompts advisories across the US

**By Clark Kent**

Daily Planet Reporter

rare winter storm knocked out nearly half the wind-power generating capacity of the state and pushed temperatures in south-east Texas down into the teens, according to reports earlier this week.

Ice storms knocked out nearly half the wind-power generating capacity of Texas as a rare deep freeze across the state locked up turbine towers while driving electricity demand to record levels, the state's grid operator reported.

Rotating power outages were initiated on Monday in order to conserve power, as more than 2 million Texans face power outages across the state.

Rotating blackouts are 'controlled, temporary interruptions of electric service' enacted as a last resort in an effort to conserve power and meet statewide demand. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas warned that

some traffic lights and other infrastructure may be without power during this time.

More than 150 million people are under weather advisories as the winter storm stretches across the US, according to USA Today. Freezing temperatures locked up wind turbine towers and spiked energy demand across Texas, according to the state grid operator. President Joe Biden declared a disaster in Texas on Monday.

President Biden ordered federal assistance to supplement state and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and

to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in all 254 Texas counties.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures for mass care and sheltering and direct federal assistance will be provided at 75 percent federal funding.

"I thank President Biden for quickly issuing a Federal Emergency Declaration for Texas as we continue to respond to severe winter weather conditions throughout the state," said Texas Governor Greg Abbott. "This disaster declaration provides Texas with additional resources and assistance that will help our communities respond to this winter weather."

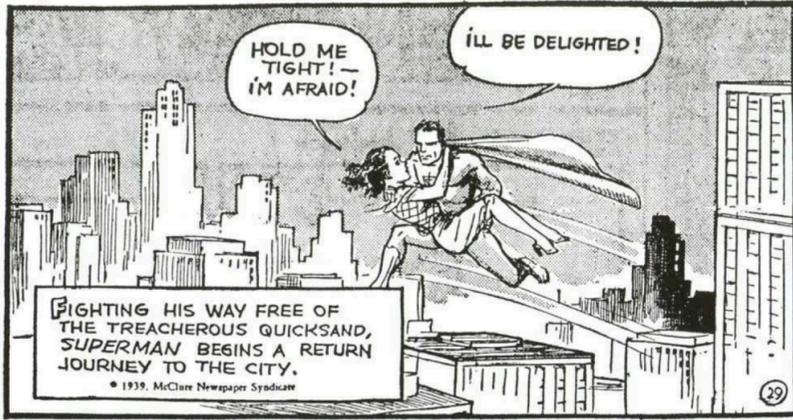
As of Thursday evening, power was restored to millions of Texans but much of the south remains isolated.

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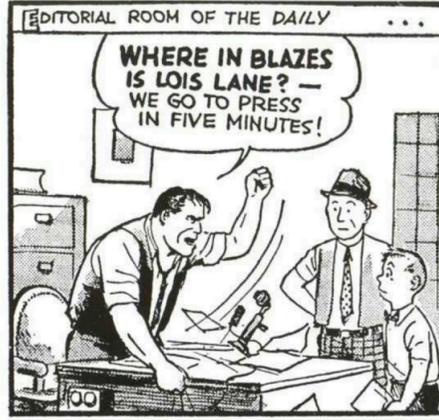
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Superman—By Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster



On Time

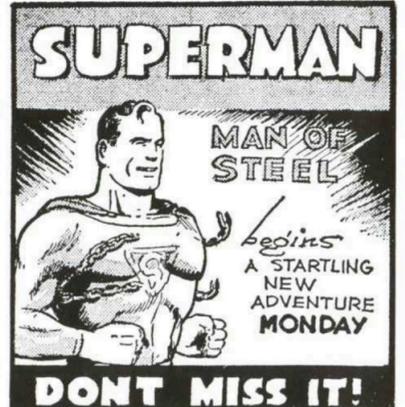
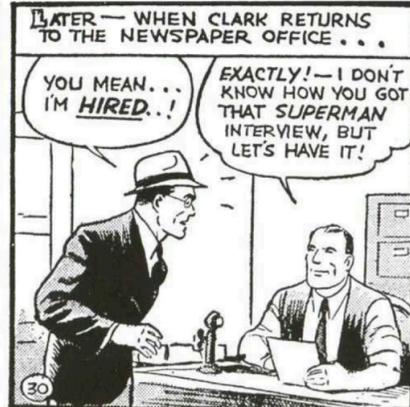
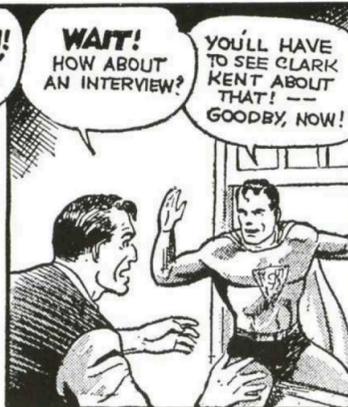
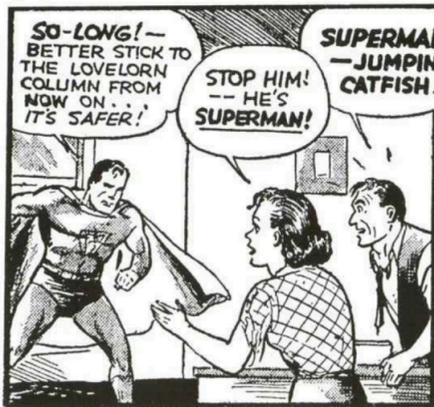
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Superman—By Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster

His Reward

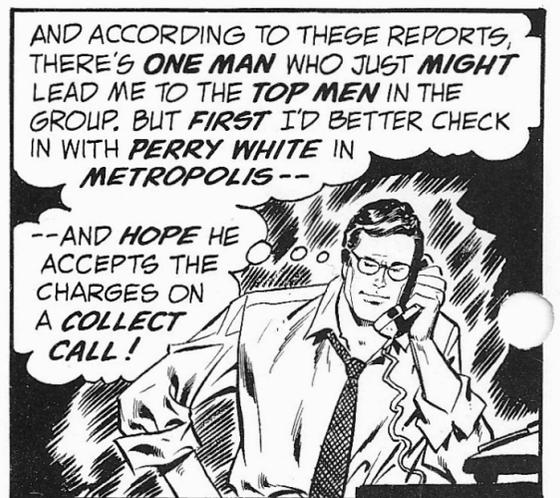
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Continued in the next edition.

Superman and the world's greatest heroes



Continued from last week's edition

Continued in the next edition.

The Daily Planet is where heroes are born and the story continues. We are proud to report on the planet, daily. The Planet is a nonprofit news organization inspired by DC Comics. Our organization prides itself on journalistic integrity. We hope to help inform the world in order to make it a better place. All of our writers and content contributors are volunteers from across the globe with a passion for comics, writing, news and entertainment.

### Snyder's vision continued from page 1

2016's "Batman vs Superman." Another nightmare we saw is Batman's vision of the future in a post-apocalyptic world where evil has won and earth has become a hellscape. That's the most important dream sequence and acts as the catalyst to his final stand against what he once considered evil — Superman.

Yes. He has his own views on what Superman is. Seeing Kal-El as an evil entity in the dream sequence, and Barry Allen telling him "You were right about him," tickles his paranoia, causing him to cement his belief for Superman's true intentions. He becomes firm on his decision to kill Superman until the end of the story, where he realizes that he was wrong and redeems himself.

"Men are still good. We Fight, we kill, we betray one another. But we can rebuild. We will. We have to," Affleck's Bruce stated to Gal Gadot's Diana Prince in the 2016 flick.

Now, coming back to the (k)nightmare. That one scene sets up the future of Zack's DC Cinematic Universe, aka "The SnyderVerse."

That's the scene that motivates Bruce to unite the League and prepare for the arrival of Darkseid. That's the route Zack was headed to since the beginning. What if they failed to stop evil? What if their worst fears came true? What if evil takes over? And that's what happens. Whatever they do, they lose. And Darkseid releases the anti life equation onto earth.

Zack's five-part arc eventually was set to reach that point. We can say that the first three movies, being "Man of Steel," "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice" and "Zack Snyder's Justice League," in the arc are simply

the road to the nightmare. They set up the stage for what and who's to come.

If we pay attention to the "Zack Snyder's Justice League" marketing, we would notice that a good significant part of it is focused towards the "Knightmare" elements. In the first trailer for the Snyder Cut, we saw another shot at the nightmare world where Wonder Woman's shield and Aquaman's trident, along with a few other references, tell us who died and who's alive.

We also saw three Apokoliptians in the trailer. One was Steppenwolf, since he's the primary villain of the story, the others were UXAS (Darkseid) and his personal slave servant DeSaad. The very first teaser for the Snyder Cut is a shot of Diana looking at a painting of Darkseid, being terrified while understanding how great the danger is. Even a warrior who literally smiles at the face of death (Doomsday) is fearful.

The new trailer that dropped on Valentine's Day (2/14) also focused a significant amount of time on the Apokoliptians and the "nightmare." We saw Apokolips along with Darkseid, DeSaad and Granny Goodness. We even have a Joker tease towards the end. All hinting to what was supposed to come in Justice League III.

We have also been seeing the brand new posters for the movie. All of which show us some kind of ruins. That is a big hint to the post apocalyptic world.

There have been Multiple T-shirt merchandise releases also. A majority of which devoted to the Apokoliptian God Darkseid. There have been three designs for DC's Darkseid merchandise so far and an AFSP Darkseid design.

Zack has been sharing a lot of pictures from the post apocalyptic world. So far we've seen a Batfleck shot, three Jared Leto

Joker shots and one Joe Manganiello Deathstroke shot, all of which belong to the nightmare timeline.

Now, why would they market scenes from a story that is taking place in the future? Because that's where he wants the focus to be. Yes, he's marketing Ray as Cyborg, Ben as Batman and everyone else for his four-hour-long story, but this is the specific part of the arc that he focuses the most. The biggest hint is that Snyder is telling us to invest in the dreams. To invest in the vision.

That's what is going to make this possible. If we simply are satisfied with what we got in 2017, then that's the end of the SnyderVerse for us. We need to prove the studios that we're in for the entirety of his saga. This is why we need to focus on scenes from the future in order to keep the chances of future chapters alive. The movie needs the audience and it needs to generate the talk.

Especially for the "nightmare" sequence. The goal here is to make the nightmare scenes, and Snyder's cut, the most talked about movie in history. Then we shall surely restore the SnyderVerse. We are proving to the higher ups that there is a massive audience who wants to see what's next. Whatever happens, do not give up. This is not a 'cul-de-sac' but a 'Cut-de-Zack'. Trust and invest in his vision.

"When the fight comes, we will need you," Zack Snyder said.

Zack Snyder's Justice League releases on March 18th 2021 on HBO Max in the US and other streaming services depending upon the region. Make sure to stream it as much as possible and keep the SnyderVerse alive. The fate of his universe lies in your hands!



Justice League is set to premiere exclusively on HBO Max beginning March 18, 2021. It will remain streamable afterwards. Zack Snyder's Justice League is set to be around four-hour's long (214 minutes), making it the longest superhero film in history. Photo's courtesy Warner Media



## CW gives green light for DC Comics 'Naomi' pilot

By Jahlil Rush  
Daily Planet Reporter

Although 2021 will result in the loss of both "Supergirl" and "Black Lightning," The CW is assuring fans the superhero franchise is not going anywhere with the development of "Naomi."

Award-winning Filmmaker Ava DuVernay, and former "Arrow" writer and executive producer Jill Blankenship are teaming up on an adaptation of "Naomi," DC Comics newest super-heroine, created by writers Brian Michel Bendis and David F. Walker and artist Jamal Campbell in March 2019. The CW has order a pilot of the DC super-hero based off her comic book counterpart.

In The CW's vision of "Naomi," the young hero will set out to uncover the secrets of her origins that somehow has a connection to the multiverse, following the aftermath of a "supernatural

event that will shake her hometown to the core."

In the critically acclaimed DC comic, Naomi, whose civilian name is Naomi McDuffie, is a teenage superhero from an alternate earth.

She share's similarities to the DC fandom's beloved Superman as she was adopted at a very young age by Greg and Jen McDuffie and was raised in a small town called Port Oswego, Oregon. Before the small town life, she was born on a different version of the Earth, a version where the planet's ozone layer had been destroyed by humans allowing a mysterious radiation to leak onto the surface.

The mysterious radiation gave 29 random people of Naomi's original earth super-human abilities, which eventually led to a war between those whose sought to use their newfound powers for nefarious reasons, and those who sought to use them for good.

The conclusion to the war led to the death of 14 of the 29 people and the remaining eight to fled the Earth. The remaining superhuman were able to keep an alliance until Naomi's birth. This made Naomi a target for Zumbado, a mass murderous being who has conquered half of the planet. In an effort to protect her, Naomi's parents handed her over to their allies and she was moved to Prime Earth.

With the Arrowverse currently going through its own transformation with the soon to be loss of "Supergirl" and Ruby Rose's exit as "Batwoman," The CW-verse will be searching far and wide for new members, including Naomi, to take on the responsibility of the old Arrowverse guard.

"Naomi" is in early development and does not have a scheduled release date at this point in time.



Superman first met Naomi outside the Daily Planet Building when she crashed into a street side hotdog stand. Photo courtesy DC Comics

## 'Superman and Lois' premieres Tuesday with two-hour special

By Cat Grant  
Daily Planet Columnist

The CW network sets "super" Tuesday event with an entire night dedicated to the premiere of "Superman & Lois." The series premiere expanded to a 90-minute debut airing at 8 p.m. ET on Feb. 23, 2021. A brand new special "Superman & Lois: Legacy of Hope" will follow.

The CW Network announced a "Super" Tuesday event on Tuesday, February 23 with the entire night dedicated to its new series Superman & Lois. The night of heroics kicks off with an expanded 90-minute series premiere of Superman & Lois (8:00-9:30pm ET/PT), immediately followed by a brand new special, Superman & Lois: Legacy of Hope (9:30-10:00pm ET/PT).

The Flash season premiere will move one week later, now airing Tuesday, March 2 (8:00-9:00pm ET/PT), as Superman & Lois shifts to its regularly scheduled time period (9:00-10:00pm ET/PT).

In Superman & Lois, after years of facing megalomaniacal supervillains, monsters wreaking havoc on Metropolis, and alien invaders intent on wiping out the human race, the world's most

famous superhero, The Man of Steel aka Clark Kent (Tyler Hoechlin, "Teen Wolf") and comic books' most famous journalist, Lois Lane (Elizabeth Tulloch, "Grimm"), come face-to-face with one of their greatest challenges ever — dealing with all the stress, pressures and complexities that come with being working parents in today's society.

Complicating the already daunting job of raising two boys, Clark and Lois must also concern themselves with whether or not their sons Jonathan (Jordan Elsass, "Little Fires Everywhere") and Jordan (Alexander Garfin, "The Peanut Movie") could inherit their father's Kryptonian superpowers as they grow older.

Returning to Smallville to handle some Kent family business, Clark and Lois are reacquainted with Lana Lang (Emmanuelle Chriqui, "Entourage"), a local loan officer who also happens to be Clark's first love, and her Fire Chief husband Kyle Cushing (Erik Valdez, "Graceland").

The adults aren't the only ones rediscovering old friendships in Smallville as the Kent sons are reacquainted with Lana and Kyle's rebellious daughter, Sarah (Inde Navarrette, "Wander Darkly"). Of course, there's never a dull moment in the life of a

superhero, especially with Lois' father, General Samuel Lane (Dylan Walsh, "Nip/Tuck") looking for Superman to vanquish a villain or save the day at a moment's notice.

Meanwhile, Superman and Lois' return to idyllic Smallville is set to be upended when a mysterious stranger (Wolé Parks, "All American") enters their lives.

Based on the characters from DC created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, Superman & Lois is developed by Greg Berlanti and Todd Helbing, who serve as executive producers of the series with Sarah Schechter and Geoff Johns.

Todd Helbing wrote the teleplay for the first episode, based on a story by Greg Berlanti and Todd Helbing. Lee Toland Krieger executive produced and directed the first episode. Superman & Lois is from Berlanti Productions in association with Warner Bros. Television.

Immediately following the series premiere of Superman & Lois, The CW takes fans behind the scenes with the brand new special Superman & Lois: Legacy of Hope, with sneak peeks and interviews from the cast of the new series, plus special guests discussing the legacy of the Man of Steel.



Elizabeth (Bitsie) Tulloch revealed a new look at "Superman and Lois" Lois and Clark over social media earlier this month. Last year, in preparation for the highly anticipated CW series, Tulloch took to Twitter asking fans what Lois Lane style should be represented on the show. This was the result. The photo depicts Lois and Clark's first meeting at, you guessed it, the Daily Planet. Photo courtesy Tulloch

### Inspiration continued from page 1

reignited. After witnessing the epic trailer premiere for "Zack Snyder's Justice League," my fandom filled heart has been reinstated. Inspired by this, I revisited "Batman vs Superman" once again. Something I've done

multiple times in the past five years. Upon revisitation, I found my love for the League rekindled.

Zack Snyder's take on my favorite characters is realistically relatable. It's hardcore, emotional and full of heart. It's a true representation of what the world would be like if supers existed. Our flaws and faults wouldn't

simply vanish. Our divided nature and litigious society wouldn't just change. We'd all adapt and the planet would simply keep rotating. His approach to these fanciful characters is wholeheartedly unique and well thought out.

Zack also provides us with a vision of impact these characters

would have on an otherwise non-super society. Superman's heart would provide the world with hope, Batman's strength would provide inspiration of courage and Wonder Woman's ferocity brings about change like never before. This is how I feel given their positive impact on me, and this is just the trinity.

These movies (Man of Steel, Batman vs Superman) reminded me of my loved ones. I remembered times where I expressed my hope for the DC multiverse to my three parentals. I remember my love and lost relatives through them as I feel the same, renewed compassion for films like these.

Rewatching the 2016 blockbuster reminded me of how it felt to believe in these heroes. I felt like I was living through these historic events. I was inspired. I found my fanfare again, all thanks to Zack Snyder's relatable and realistic vision — and I'm forever grateful.



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