

A good while back when shooting had just wrapped on The Dark Knight Rises, an interviewer asked director Christopher Nolan on a red carpet junket what the theme of his third and final Batman movie was. Nolan of course played it coy as ever, replying simply that we would find out soon enough. People like to attribute prevailing themes to Nolan's first two Batman movies -- fear, escalation etc -- so if I have to pin one on TDKR, I'll take this one: Hope. Surprised? As many critics have pointed out, this is indeed the "darkest" of the trilogy, and the most melancholy. But ultimately, in many ways, it is also the most uplifting. 8 years after the events of The Dark Knight we find Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) a broken shell of a man. He's a recluse, only conversing with Alfred (Michael Caine), until he encounters Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway)

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