

As I'm combing through these reviews it's safe to say that Christopher Nolan has not only met the high expectations of fans, but more importantly conquered the curse of the third film. The Dark Knight Rises created a great third film, which is something that eluded films like Godfather 3, Terminator 3, Superman III and Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, just to name a few. Variety Few blockbusters have borne so heavy a burden of audience expectation as Christopher Nolan's final Batman caper, and the filmmaker steps up to the occasion with a cataclysmic vision of Gotham City under siege in "The Dark Knight Rises." Running an exhilarating, exhausting 164 minutes, Nolan's trilogy-capping epic sends Batman to a literal pit of despair, restoring him to the core of a legend that questions, and powerfully affirms, the need for heroism in a fallen world. If it never quite matches the brilliance of 2008's

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