

# **BATMAN VS SUPERMAN**

3rd Draft

INT. GOTHAM NATIONAL BANK - DAY

The Joker and his bandits have the bank held up. Employees and customers are cowered in fear as the Joker pulls out the last of the money bags.

CLOWN FACE BANDIT

That's a lot of money. If this Joker guy was so smart he'd have had us bring a bigger car. I'm betting the Joker told you to kill me soon as we loaded the cash.

JOKER

No, no, no, I kill the bus driver.

CLOWN FACE BANDIT

Bus driver? What bus driver.

Just then a school bus crashes through the bank walls, crushing the clown face bandit.

We see a ten year old boy crouched down behind a teller counter, eyeing all of the action. His parents, LIONEL AND LETITIA are cowered in fear.

Lionel clutches his leg in pain. There is blood pooling around him. He has been shot.

His mother sees him standing and watching and calls to him to sit down.

LETITIA

(whisper yelling)

Alexander. Sit down. Alexander Luthor, sit down now.

LEX LUTHOR looks toward his mother, then back at the Joker as he is leaving the bank in the school bus. Lex smiles.

INT. LUTHOR HOME - DAY

The Luthor family sits around the television screen watching the news reports of Bane's siege of Gotham City. SUPER:  
"SEVEN YEARS LATER"

Letitia looks horrified. Lionel shakes his head while drinking his coffee. Lex, now 17, watches on in awe.

LIONEL

See, this is exactly why I wanted to move to Metropolis. Gotham was doomed ever since the Batman showed up.

LETITIA

Lionel, we still have friends in Gotham.

LIONEL

Friends who should have listened  
when I told them to leave after  
that Joker moron went on his  
rampage.

LEX

Don't.

Lionel continues to sip his coffee and watch the television.  
Letitia looks toward her son curiously.

LETITIA

Don't what honey?

LEX

(yelling)

Don't call the Joker a moron.

Lionel slams down his coffee mug and looks at his son.

LIONEL

(stern)

Need I remind you he almost killed  
me that day in the bank?

LEX

Yeah, it's too bad he didn't.

LIONEL

That's it.

Lionel stands up angrily and points toward Lex's bedroom.

LETITIA

Alexander, go to your room. You do  
not speak to your father that way.

Lex stands up and starts to walk to his room. His father  
smacks him on the back of the head as he walks by.

As Lex leaves the living room, a giant smile crosses his  
face.

INT. BAT CAVE

BRUCE WAYNE, mid forties, looks like Casey Affleck but buff,  
is staring blankly off into the dark abyss deep down in his  
secret hideout.

Behind him there are one hundred televisions all playing  
newscasts from the destruction caused by Superman and  
General Zod in their epic battle the previous day.

Bruce's face quickly fills with rage as he clenches his fist  
then turns toward the televisions.

BRUCE  
(growling)  
This ends now.

Bruce picks up a remote control in the same shape as his iconic symbol and turns off each television one-by-one using the corresponding button for each television.

Just as he is nearly through all one hundred, he hears a familiar voice.

VOICE (O.S.)  
How many times must I remind you  
Master Wayne, just press the big  
red button at the top.

Bruce turns to see his trusty butler ALFRED, around 100 years old, looks like Clint Eastwood, creep out of the shadows.

BRUCE  
(growling)  
What did you just say?

ALFRED  
I said...

Alfred grabs the batremote from Bruce and uses grand gestures as he is about to press the red button.

ALFRED  
...just press the big red button.

Bruce grabs the remote back and throws it at the televisions, striking one.

Bruce takes a deep breath then looks back toward his mentor.

BRUCE  
Sorry Alfred. I've just got a lot  
on my mind with this alien attack  
last night.

ALFRED  
That's super man.

BRUCE  
Excuse me? How is an alien attack  
super?

ALFRED  
No, that alien, there.

Alfred points to the red and blue caped hero still pictured on one of the last remaining televisions.

ALFRED  
They are calling him Superman.

BRUCE

Superman? That's (beat) ridiculous.

ALFRED

Oh? And Batman is so much better?

BRUCE

It is better. I am a man who takes on the form of a bat and fights crime. I strike fear into the hearts of criminals everywhere as I fly around and disappear into the dark. I'm terrifying.

ALFRED

Very well sir.

BRUCE

Superman? I don't see what is so super about a man who causes so much death and destruction with seemingly no regard for human life. Is he even a man? I mean, he came from a different planet.

ALFRED

He looks like a man to me.

BRUCE

Looks can be deceiving old friend.

ALFRED

So, what are you going to do?

BRUCE

Get a closer look.

EXT. ATMOSPHERE - NIGHT

SUPERMAN, aka Clark Kent, is hovering up high in the atmosphere looking down below at the aftermath of the destruction he has caused in his battle with Zod.

A tear forms in his eye and he goes to wipe it but then realizes his hands are very dirty. He looks around for something to grab but then remembers he is miles in the sky. He reaches back and grabs the tail end of his cape and reaches it up to his face. It's too short to reach his eye. He lowers his head, trying to meet the cape but to no avail.

He throws down his cape and then remembers something. He faces off into space and then shoots lasers out of his eyes to dry the tears. It works. He smiles.

EXT. SPACE

The lasers that Superman has just fired off fly through space and hit a satellite dish, blowing it up.

INT. THE WONDER BAR - NIGHT

The bar is pretty full as patrons are gathered around the televisions watching one of two things, the news reports about Superman, or the World Series.

Just then, the cable cuts out on every TV, causing a stir amongst the patrons.

ANGRY PATRON 1

Let's get out of here.

ANGRY PATRON 2

Let's burn this place down first.  
No TV, no reason to keep standing.

The patrons all start to riot, and quickly they have flaming torches made.

Just then, a dark haired girl wearing a trench coat stands up and screams so loudly that everyone can hear over their ruckus. They all turn to face her.

DIANE, dark hair, early 20s, is standing on a table in the middle of the bar. She looks at Angry Patron 2 who is holding a torch.

DIANE

Put it down.

ANGRY PATRON 2

What are you going to do about it?

DIANE

Trust me, it's better if I leave  
you wondering.

The patron laughs and soon the rest of the bar follows in suit. He reaches the torch out toward a fabric curtain covering a window. The bar erupts in cheer as the flames near the fabric. That is until in a flash, Diane appears in front of the man and grabs his throat. She lifts him off the ground nearly a foot.

Everyone gasps and steps back. The angry patron's eyes start to bulge as he turns blue.

ANGRY PATRON 2

(gasping)

I can't breathe. Please let me go.

Diane's eyes are filled with rage. She clenches harder on the man's throat and squeezes the last bits of breath out of him. Then suddenly, she lets him go.

He crumples to the ground and drops the torch, breathing heavily.

Diane picks up the torch and waves it at the other patrons.

DIANE

Anyone else wanna try? (beat) Get out. Now.

Everyone quickly evacuates the bar. With one mighty breath, Diane blows out the giant torch and then steps on the still gasping man on the ground, putting her high heel in his crotch.

DIANE

If I ever see you in this bar again, I'll kill you.

The man nods frantically. She releases him and he scampers off. Diane looks around the bar, it appears empty.

DIANE

You can come out now, from behind the bar.

A cowering man, the bartender, emerges from behind the bar, his hands in the air as Diane makes her way toward the door.

BARTENDER

How...how did you know I was back there?

Diane stops just before she exits.

DIANE

Guess I have X-Ray vision.

She smirks and walks out of the bar.

INT. METROPOLIS CITY HALL - EVENING

The social event of the year. All of the biggest names are out in attendance as Metropolis' Person of the Year is soon-to-be-named.

The mayor of Metropolis takes the stage to a ROAR OF APPLAUSE. As he reaches the microphone, the crowd quiets down.

MAYOR BERKOWITZ

Thank you all for coming out tonight. You know, this night of the year is very stressful for me. I have to partner with several esteemed colleagues and we debate for hours on end the merits of each of our nominees for Person of the Year. Hours upon hours. And in the end we decide on one. Then I have to get up here and give a speech about that person, convincing all of you and sometimes myself, why we have chosen them as POTY. It can be  
(MORE)

MAYOR BERKOWITZ (cont'd)  
very difficult some years as there  
are always so many great  
candidates. But this year, this  
year was different. This year,  
there was no arguing. There was no  
debate. In my eleven years as mayor  
of this fine city, the finest city,  
we have never had a unanimous  
decision on this award, until now  
Ladies and gentlemen, without  
further ado, your Person of the  
Year, Lex Luthor.

The audience erupts in applause as a now mid-twenties Lex  
Luthor takes the stage.

LEX  
Thank you Mayor Berkowitz. Thank  
you everyone. It means so much to  
me to be standing here today. Seven  
years ago I lost my parents in a  
tragic car accident, and I thought  
that was it. That my life was over  
as well. After all, tragedy  
influences our lives, our  
decisions.

Lex takes a moment.

LEX  
But I decided to make the most out  
of this tragedy. Not to let it  
defeat me or hold me back but  
rather use it as the fire I needed  
to keep my father's company alive  
and stronger than ever. And this is  
only the beginning.

INT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Bruce Wayne, now dressed in his Batman get up, is zipping  
down the streets in his famed Batmobile.

Batman is looking for trouble. Specifically, Superman  
trouble. He doesn't know where to begin.

He reaches a stoplight and does so accordingly. He looks  
around the streets and down into an alley.

Batman eyes something out of the ordinary at the end of the  
alley. There are a group of thugs doing something thuggish.

Crime? Not on Batman's watch.

Batman hops out of the car and uses his Batarang to zip  
himself up onto a nearby rooftop.

EXT. DARK ALLEY

The thugs are in fact doing some thuggish stuff. They are beating up a MAN IN A SUIT. Two thugs hold him as another interrogates him.

THUG #1

I'm going to give you one more chance to tell me where he is.

MAN IN SUIT

I don't know. I told you everything.

THUG #1

Big mistake.

The thug winds up and punches the man hard. He collapses. Thug #2 and #3 pick him back up.

MAN IN SUIT

Please stop. I said I don't know anything else.

THUG #1

Why do I find that so hard to believe?

MAN IN SUIT

Because you are a moron.

THUG #1

You shouldn't have said that.

MAN IN SUIT

Let me guess, it was a big mistake?

THUG #1

No. It was your last mistake.

The thug pulls out a gun and points it at the man. He cocks the gun.

Just before he pulls the trigger, Batman comes raining down from above, landing directly on Thug #1, taking him out.

Thug #2 lets go of the man in the suit and rushes at Batman.

They exchange fisticuffs and Batman quickly disposes of him.

The man in the suit breaks himself free from Thug #3.

Batman squares him up. Thug #3 puts his hands up in the air to surrender.

THUG #3

I give up. Please don't hurt me. I have a kid and my wife is dead.

BATMAN

I was an orphan. I turned out fine.

Batman throws a batstar into the man's head, killing him.

He turns to face the man in the suit.

MAN IN SUIT

Please don't kill me.

BATMAN

What did these men want?

MAN IN SUIT

Information.

BATMAN

About what.

MAN IN SUIT

I can't tell you.

Batman grabs the man by the arm and twists it behind his back.

BATMAN

Tell me.

MAN IN SUIT

They are looking for Dr. Saul Erdel.

BATMAN

Erdel? The scientist with that TV show? Why?

MAN IN SUIT

I don't know.

Batman tightens his grip on the man's arm.

MAN IN SUIT

All right. All right. Apparently he's been working on something big. And these guys want to find him and get in on the action.

BATMAN

What action?

MAN IN SUIT

That I don't know, I swear.

BATMAN

Well where's Erdel? And what's your connection to him?

MAN IN SUIT

Nobody knows. He went off the grid about a week ago. I am a producer on his show. I've been looking for him too.

BATMAN

What was he working on?

MAN IN SUIT

I said I don't know. He started getting really weird the last few weeks. Kept going on about Martians and aliens. Look, he does this from time to time. He gets obsessed with these ideas. First it was telepathy, then solar flares, now it's aliens.

BATMAN

Aliens?

MAN IN SUIT

That's all I know. Please, let me go.

Batman releases the man's arm. The man shakes his arm to get the feeling back.

He starts to walk away, slowly.

BATMAN

If you see Erdel, tell him I'm coming to talk to him. Oh one more thing.

The man stops and turns back to Batman.

BATMAN

You happen to know where I can find Superman?

MAN IN SUIT

What? No, I have no idea.

The man in the suit winces, expecting to be beaten.

Batman flies off into the darkness.

The man in the suit breathes a deep sigh of relief.

INT. BAT CAVE

Bruce sits at his desk, scrolling through pages of information on his computer about Dr. Erdel.

He takes a sip of coffee and sits back in his chair.

Alfred enters the room.

ALFRED

Any luck Master Wayne?

BRUCE

I'm not sure what to make of any of it Alfred. I mean, this guy is a nutzo. I've watched hours of his show, I've read papers he's written. Most of it is nonsensical radical theories. The last post on his blog was his attempts to contact extraterrestrial life. I don't see what those thugs would want with him. He is clearly insane.

ALFRED

Isn't Superman an alien?

Bruce thinks for a moment.

BRUCE

My god Alfred. You're right. Do you think that Erdel is the one who brought Superman here?

Bruce quickly turns back to his research.

Alfred smiles and then pats Bruce on the back.