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The Hero Archetype in *The Dark Knight Rises*

According to Dictionary.com the definition of a hero is “a man of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities.” The most obvious example of a hero from the movie *The Dark Knight Rises* is the character of Batman; however, other characters such as Catwoman, and Det. John Blake all qualify as the hero archetype as well.

Batman is a man of noble courage and ability dedicated to defending Gotham City from violence. He does this service at a great sacrifice to his own body. In one scene of *The Dark Knight Rises* a doctor looks at Bruce Wayne/Batman’s x-rays and proclaims that no cartilage remains in his knee joints. Yet Batman compensates for his human weaknesses through advanced technology and dedicated training. His injury at the hands of Bane would have crippled any man; however, Batman chose to rehabilitate himself to come back and face Bane again. Yet at the end of the movie Batman proves he is willing to do the ultimate sacrifice in order to save his beloved Gotham, as he and he alone has the capacity to save the city from nuclear holocaust.

In this same manner the character of Catwoman becomes a hero within the movie. Although at first her character is very much a temptress and out for her own self; even stooping to sell out Batman to Bane; she risks it all in the end because she is as disgusted by the corruption of the city by the rule of Bane as Batman is. In the end it is Catwoman, not Batman, who kills Bane with a gunshot from her motorcycle borrowed from Batman, basically saving Batman’s life so he could save the life of the city.

The character of Detective John “Robin” Blake is described as an “eternal child” (Ullal). His faith in the Batman enables him to find the courage to fight the forces of Bane himself. It is at the moment that Blake almost sacrifices himself for a group of orphan children and is repelled not by the “bad guys” but by the “good guys” does he finally see why Batman is a vigilante. It is also what leads Batman to make Blake his heir apparent and to mold the future persona of Batman for himself.

All three characters, Batman, Catwoman, and John Blake can be considered heroes within the movie *The Dark Knight Rises.* All three characters have initial character flaws, but all in the end prove their mettle through courage deeds and self-sacrifice.

Works Cited

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