### MOVIE REVIEW

# JUSTICE LEAGUE
## The most Marvel movie yet, by DC

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Please be considerate towards me as I write this review for *Justice League*, while still reeling from the awesomeness that is Marvel's *Thor: Ragnarok*. While carrying my popcorn inside the hall, I knew from past experiences that [visually] it'd be another dark and serious movie. Little did I know I'd be getting out with an equally gloomy cloud over my head.

Seriously, what was Warner Bros. thinking?

As the title for this article suggests, *Justice League* really does feel like a typical Marvel movie [case in point: The Avengers (2012)]. To explain further, let me present the storyline for you.

Superman is dead from the previous movie of the DC Extended Universe (DCEU), and therefore hopelessness looms around the world. A supervillain, Steppenwolf, has decided to act upon the absence of the hero to re-collect and activate the energy sources – Mother Boxes – and become a favourite of his master, the tyrant ruler of Apokolips, Darkseid.

On the earthly side of matters, things are even scarier: Batman has lost his edge. Terrified over what the fate of the planet holds, he plans to "put a team together" with the help of Wonder Woman who mostly plays the role of Batman's babysitter. He convinces one Barry Allen who is sold in a flash; Arthur Curry is steaming mad when he learns his identity has been compromised but joins anyway; and sad man Victor Stone hacks his way into the team. What happens next? Will the superheroes like each other? Why must villains always come through a weird-looking portal in the sky?

Lo and behold, here come *drum rolls and bat signals* the Justice League.

And now we cut to why I call this "the most Marvel movie by DC" – point by point.

**We are all the same:** The Hulk and Cyborg consider themselves monsters and stay in hiding; Thor and Wonder Woman are deities; Batman and Aquaman don't agree with each other just like Iron Man and Captain America; even the bad guys, Loki and Steppenwolf, wear a similar kind of headgear.

**Darkseid and the Mother Boxes vs Thanos and the Infinity Stones:** Evil dude from outer space wants to control the universe using the collective power of mysterious power sources or devices.

**"What if I told you we were putting a team together" vs "I'm putting together a team of people with special abilities":** The richest members of both teams share more than their love for gadgets; they could pretty much complete each other's sentences. Ok, Tony Stark has a sense of humour, but still.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. While I do agree that most superhero movies follow a similar approach to storylines, in the parallel cases of MCU and DCEU, it feels like the directors were presented with a single raw idea; Zack Snyder did much of the work but even Joss Whedon and his introduction of acute one liners to make us laugh couldn't salvage the movie.

I would also spend some words on Steppenwolf and the ending of the movie. I was expecting an out of the world finale where the Justice League assembles to take on the villain. Sadly, and I must break this [spoiler] to you, the heroes were dispersed and Steppenwolf turned out to be an even bigger disappointment than the heroes with bare minimum character development.

In summation, *Justice League* is a movie with a ton of could-have-beens. The standalone DCEU flicks do their part well as we have seen, however, this particular movie felt like a weak shot in the dark from Warner Bros.

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