

[Pre-Flashpoint Saga, Earth-3976]

PHASE ONE MOVIES:

Year 1: Superman, Batman

Year 2: Wonder Woman, Superman V Batman

Year 3: The Flash, Justice League

PHASE TWO MOVIES:

Year 4: Cyborg, Green Lantern (John Stewart)

Year 5: Wonder Woman 2, Aquaman, Flash 2

Year 6: Superman 2, Batman 2, Justice League 2

PHASE THREE MOVIES:

(Introduces many alts in multiverse, leading to Crisis on Infinite Earths in next saga)

Year 7: ???, ???, ???

Year 8: Flashpoint, ???

Year 9: ???, [Concluding Saga Movie tied to Flashpoint]

(With the introduction of alts, a new Superman, Batman, etc. take over the roles)

[illegible]

Superman: Guardian of Hope is about Superman becoming confident enough in himself to use his immense powers for good. It is about reaching for ideals, overcoming the mind's depressing "reality".

Batman: Dark Knight of Truth is about Batman realizing that one has to be realistic in order to survive; in this case, too much power corrupts even saints, and that one cannot live in idealism forever.

Superman v Batman is idealism realizing its flaws when it's confronted by the unfortunate who cannot ever reach those ideals and are forced to learn how to live in reality.

Justice League is about a balance of the two beliefs: idealism and realism must co-exist.

SUPERMAN: GUARDIAN OF HOPE

The main theme in the movie is about hope overcoming despair. Superman's biggest challenge is the prospect that he chases after a false ideal, and there is an underlying fear that the ideal will never come true. All of Earth is facing this harrowing experience. They are facing an incurable plague, and wars are fought over limited resources that can stave off the plague and reduce its suffering. Humans are killing one another, and Superman cannot change people's minds. This mirrors the situation that destroyed all of Krypton, in which technology was mishandled and used for war instead of societal advancement.

The plague that affects humanity seems to give different ailments to different people. For some, it gives them cancer. For others, it causes various bodily disorders, such as muscular breakdown. It can also

exacerbate mental disorders. This plague is later found to be caused by an alien lifeform, which explains why humans cannot cure it.

The ideal that Superman chases after is the belief that he can stop wars, and that resurrection is possible. This is deemed insulting by humans, as it has never happened in reality. But Superman later learns, through the teachings of Jor-el, that these things ARE possible because the absurdly impossible has already happened, yet humans just don't see it. The existence of the desire for peace, of humans bettering themselves, of the advancement of technology- these are proof that humans have achieved what was deemed previously impossible, with patience, hard work, and belief. Metropolis, a futuristic city, is evidence of this.

Though Clark is near physically invincible, he suffers from mental disorders such as fear of being judged and anxiety over not being good enough. He witnesses demons and ghosts, and is unsure if he is experiencing schizophrenic hallucinations or not.

The start of the movie has Krypton where Jor-el is a pure scientist, not a fighter. Zod decimates him.

The first part of the movie shows Clark being a boy scout, helping his community. Though many admire him, many also judge him for being different. This makes him less confident in helping people, and sometimes he even shies away from doing so. However, whenever there is danger, he cannot help but go through; he is simply conflicted when doing so and does not perform as well when helping, as he has self doubt. This causes him to fail several times, and makes him not want to help others because he feels he will do more harm than good.

One of Clark's weakness is chaos magic, and so he is tormented by horrific, magical entities from the Phantom Zone. There are jumpscare- silence, then sudden terror, and Clark is helpless. His life is often in danger. But this usually turns out to all be in his mind. These monsters torment Clark, giving him hallucinations and making him not trust his own senses, as they were seeping into the world with the experiments scientists were conducting to try to pry open more and more of the Phantom Zone, where the monsters were trapped in. However, he is reassured by his family and friends that these are all just tricks of the mind, so he is able to push them out of his mind and enjoy his early life in Kansas, blissfully oblivious to the true world outside. Though he sees bad things happen on the news, he is told by his community to ignore it. He does, but feels guilt over this.

But still, the hallucinations that Clark faces endangers people, as Clark may think he's fighting a villain when it's actually a civilian. A monster from the Phantom Zone is causing these hallucinations; this monster is allied with Zod. Zod does not attack humanity, but he does manipulate the scientists into secretly giving him more outside power to torment Superman. This is because Zod is aware that Jor-El's son escaped, and he wants to destroy him as he's the greatest threat standing in his way once he breaks out. The demons are like something out of a surreal horror movie. The difference is that in this movie, the hero eventually gains powers to not just defeat the monsters, but overwhelm them so that no part of them is frightening ever again. In his nightmares, he sometimes encounters a terrifying being who calls himself Zod, and is tortured by him. When he wakes up, he's terrified about the possibility that this is what reality truly is.

Clark deals with his anxiety by hiding from others, traveling to isolated places in the world such as mountains, jungles, etc. He also keeps a journal about his travels and discoveries, which ties in to him becoming a journalist later on. The more he does this, however, the more people suffer. He tries to drown this out by convincing himself he will only do more harm than good, anyways.

Clark sees surreal scenes where he sees himself in third person, possibly indicating an out of body experience or hallucination. He does not know. Through his belief though, he is able to turn these

nightmares into something trivial, comical, or heroic. These battles do not just occur within the Phantom Zone, but outside of it; whenever his mind hallucinates, he is able to fight against it with his belief. Slowly, over time, he defeats this illness, but it always bounces back and he is unprepared; it causes him despair, as he thought he beat it before but it never goes away. However, once he becomes Superman, he does destroy this illness, by literally punching it to death (Superman vows not to kill sentient beings, and these personality-void entities do not count as such). He does not destroy this illness with sheer strength- a one bullet solution- but through patience and hard work. If he did not work through this illness with time, he would not destroy the monsters. The physical battles are representations of final blows. During the movie, progress IS made that leads up to these battles; the battles alone are not the cure.

Clark Kent grows up in a time when humanity is in complete despair. In Kansas, Clark is sheltered from the destruction of the outside world, and is hopeful and optimistic, believing life will always be perfect the way it is. A few of his friends and family are aware of his powers, but they keep it a secret, and Clark acts normal around others whenever the secret is leaked, so no one believes the leakers. Clark uses his powers to do good for his community, becoming a living legend. However, when Clark is in his 20s, the destruction of the outside world begins to creep in. When terrorists attack Kansas, Clark has to go around saving everyone. Pa is trapped, and tells Clark to save others first as others are in more immediate danger, and Clark promises Pa he will come back. But when he does, Clark hears Pa being torn in half from a distance. He rushes to find him, but it's too late, and all that's left is Pa's disfigured body. The ones who killed Pa were ones that Clark spared, as he vowed to not kill anyone. This makes Clark question his own morals; he encounters despair when he has to choose between his father's life or a stranger's, and chooses the stranger's, much to his regret. Clark, who has been raised by his adoptive parents to believe that he can overcome any mortal obstacle using his powers, vows to stop humanity's destruction using his powers.

Donning an alter ego (not named Superman yet), Clark saves people from disasters, and in the news, he promises that he will stop humanity's extinction. The world is in awe. The first alter ego that Clark takes is called Guardian. His childhood name he makes up is Superman, but he drops it when others make fun of it for being too cheesy. A young reporter named Lois Lane airs this interview, and she becomes attached to this new potential beacon of hope.

Clark travels around the world and sees all the horrific things in life, and is overwhelmed. Dismemberment, disease, poverty, war are all witnessed. After the domestic terrorists destroy his hometown to pillage for painkillers to stave away the pain of the plague, he watches his childhood friends spiral down into destruction, unable to help them despite trying his best. The only one who manages to escape is Lex Luthor. The movie shifts from a very pleasant bubble into one where Clark sees malnourished bodies and corpses everywhere, criminals, injustice, people being misrepresented and ganged up on, etc. There is constant hopelessness; even if Clark accomplishes something, it's always torn down as having little impact when it's revealed that only the symptom was resolved, not the cause of suffering.

Clark eventually fails to uphold many of his promises, and people become even more despondent when they see even this superhuman cannot solve their problems. Believing him to be a scientific experiment gone astray, they tell him that he's living in a fantasy world, and Clark believes them. Clark begins having nightmares again where his consciousness is transported into a world of complete and utter despair, and he can never escape.

There is a countdown in how strong the plague becomes. Clark's loved ones' conditions worsen every second, and there is nothing he can do. He also feels his own mind, and consequently how he feels over his body, slipping due to the torment from the Phantom Zone demons.

Clark is inflicted with PTSD. Subtle sounds that remind him of bombs unnerve him, as there are many bombs he failed to stop. The Kansas attack is the first time in his life when he failed to save people. Faced with impossible obstacles such as the inability to reverse death, Clark also descends into depression. He retreats into isolation, and is in complete and utter fear as the world falls around him. Days and months pass, and humanity is nearly gone. One day, fed up with it all, Clark decides to revisit Kansas to relive his childhood memories where there was hope. Through this, he realizes that as a child, he made up stories with his friends about where he came from, and made up dreams about how he could save the world. Clark talks with Ma Kent about how those fake realities were what made him the happiest, and Ma Kent tells him that if they made him happy, there's no reason to get rid of them, no matter what the outside world tells him. These words re-invigorate Clark, and he decides to follow the clues left from his space pod to find his true origins, which he believes has the keys to saving humanity.

With the help of Lois, Clark eventually finds a Kryptonian computer containing the last of Jor-El's messages. Here, he discovers Kryptonian philosophies and technologies that are nearly impossible to decrypt. However, Clark realizes that these tools can save humanity from the destruction it has wrought over its natural resources and economies. Before he can decide how to introduce these technologies to Earth, the US government reveals that it has been following Clark, and captures him using Kryptonite.

In captivity, the US scientists reveal that they have been secretly monitoring Kryptonian technology, and various governments around the world are competing to destroy one another by harnessing its weapons. Clark says that the tech must be used for good, not evil- he says that Krypton was destroyed because of the misuse of technology. Again, the scientists tell Clark that he is not living in reality, and has to accept that certain things cannot be changed.

Clark had discovered that Krypton had discovered a cure to defeat the lifeform, but only for Kryptonians. Clark has to get scientists from different nations to put their research together and within a few weeks, discovers how to use this cure on humans. The scientists do not cooperate at first, but a secret group of them communicate with one another, defying their government's commands, as they were inspired by Clark's message to stop fighting and to work together.

Zod has been working with scientists the whole time, secretly manipulating them. The scientists wish to extract Kryptonian tech found in the phantom zone, while still trying to imprison Zod. Zod uses this chance to plan his escape. However, he did not introduce the plague. This is because the issues that humanity faces should be independent of Krypton- they should be purely caused by humanity's flaws. Thus, Superman must save humanity from itself by inspiring hope. Zod's release should be a symptom of human's flaws; Zod did not manipulate the problems that humans face.

Soon, the arms race leads humanity to open portals into the Phantom Zone to retrieve weapons and knowledge that were sealed by Kryptonians. Zod and the other prisoners take this chance to escape, and by manipulating the already fragile society, they seek to wipe out Earth and steal its resources as a way to recover their weakened army. Earth is merely a pit stop for fuel on their way to conquer the rest of the galaxy, just like wasps bursting out of a caterpillar they use as food. Zod's forces make quick work of Clark, injuring him and leaving him for dead. Zod exacerbates the conflict by manipulating the people into fighting one another more over access to an escape ship that can only house a few. Ma Kent is killed by the plague, which Zod purposefully injects into her.

People stop fighting back, and give up, screaming and crying. But Clark knows what he has to do. With his last remaining strength, he journeys into the Phantom Zone to retrieve forbidden tech that his father made that was sealed up so it could not fall into the wrong hands. In the Phantom Zone, Clark encounters his greatest nightmares, and is seemingly stuck there for eternity, not aging. It is a literal Hell. However,

reaching into what he has learned in life, Clark is able to use patience to slowly crawl his way towards the tech. With this tech, Clark is able to do what all humans deemed impossible: to speak with the deceased, but only one, as the technology is weak and at its final limits. Clark must choose to speak to Pa Kent or his biological parents, and chooses Pa Kent.

In a higher dimensional realm, Clark finds the spirit of Pa Kent. Pa Kent tells him that he cannot be brought back to life, and there are things on Earth he misses. But he says that his spirit becomes happier for all the happiness he sees on Earth. The more happiness there is in the physical world, the happier the spirits are. Clark does not know if this conversation is an illusion or not, but then Pa Kent tells him what Ma Kent said: if it makes him happy, and doesn't harm anything, then why not believe it? With the second reiteration of this belief, Clark now fully embraces idealism and hope. Pa Kent tells him there is someone else he met, and that this someone (heavily hinted to be Jor-El) showed him how to activate and retrieve tech that will save the dying Earth. Pa Kent tells Clark that his biological parents are very proud of him, as they are always watching, too. This suggests more that this encounter is not an illusion, but this is still inconclusive- it may be a hologram with knowledge of the Phantom Zone that is assuming the form of Pa Kent speaking to Clark. Nonetheless, Clark believes he is talking to the real Pa Kent, and discovers tech that CAN revive a human, but only if they were very recently deceased. This tech can only be reconstructed using tech that Zod keeps, and that it is so limited it can only be used once. Clark realizes that he must race to revive his mother, as soon too much time will have passed for her to be revived.

With the new tech and power-ups retrieved, Clark is able to escape from the Phantom Zone with a new identity: Superman. He tells Earth's people how to defeat Zod's forces and the plague that's forcing people to kill each other. The people still don't believe him, as he failed them before. But Superman does not back down this time: no matter how many obstacles he faces, he patiently fights them all off using his belief that he can defeat them. In an exhausting struggle with many near defeats, Superman wins over Zod's forces one by one, and all of this is captured live. The world begins to believe in Superman, and Superman's most loyal supporters rally up their local neighborhoods to stop fighting and put Superman's plan about using the tech into action. By trusting one another and in Superman, the people begin to see the first signs of stopping the previous unstoppable plague.

Superman defeats these chaotic, horrific-looking monsters (resembling clowns, dolls, mind destroying entities, etc) both within the Phantom Zone, and outside of it when some of them escape. This is symbolic of people punching away their mental disorders. The only way Superman could overcome them was with patience that strengthened his mind enough to learn how to resist their attacks.

Superman does find himself being dismembered by these monsters, but is able to regrow his body with the help of Kryptonian tech during battle. The greatest fear is pure hopelessness: the fact that science says that the universe will spiral into heat death, that there is no continuation after death, that there is eternal torment. During the movie, the audience feels this is what will happen, as despite how strong Superman is, logically everything points to pure hopelessness; all signs of 'miracles' turn out to be wrong and disproven.

Unable to use the plague to manipulate the people anymore, Zod turns to using pure military might to intimidate the people, which he did not use before as his forces were already severely weakened in resources and he needed these military resources to conquer the rest of the galaxy. Despite overwhelming odds, Superman is able to fight against all of this. Superman believes in himself so much that he is able to stop every bomb in Metropolis when Zod attacks it to attempt to gain control over the tech used to unleash more monsters from the phantom zone. The Phantom Zone is a nightmarish landscape, but does not resemble Hell or dark caverns. Instead, it is a surreal nightmare, shifting from a hall of mirrors to tortured images of loved ones wheezing to death, helplessly strapped to contraptions with their skin torn off. With

the help of Kryptonian tech that he learns how to operate with the help of Jor-El's AI, he learns to reverse all of these horrors that the audience sees, both imaginary in his mind and real. Only Superman's Kryptonian energy and blood could jumpstart this abandoned tech to get it working.

Zod harnesses this alien lifeform as a weapon. Though the lifeform is microscopic, it can aggregate into a gigantic monster. Thus, Superman literally fights cancer and other medical diseases fist to fist, and defeats it. He discovers Kryptonian tech that allows him to access the 'Queen' of the lifeforms that supplies all the lifeforms with their energy that makes them immune to cures, and once he destroys the Queen, all the lifeforms become susceptible to the cure that the scientists on Earth have made. When fighting the lifeform, it infects Superman with a variety of illnesses, such as cancer, leukemia, etc. So Superman has to mentally overcome all these illnesses and defeat the monster. This is a realization of a child's hopeful thinking that human medical problems can be punched away. It shows that with belief, the impossible can be done.

Backed into a corner, Zod tries to force Superman to kill him in order to make him break his promise of his 'no kill policy'. But Superman tells him that through planning, he already had a way of getting around this, and traps Zod and his forces back into the Phantom Zone, destroying all portals going into it. This is a call-back to Pa Kent; now, Superman proves that even the impossible (in some situations) can be overcome. Superman then revives his mother, and humans are in awe over these miracles. Though the plague is eradicated, there are still many things they must work together to overcome, and now they have hope that resurrection is possible. The technology used to revive Ma Kent, and its blueprints, are destroyed by Zod, and cannot be reverse engineered, so humans are left on their own to move towards it. The public does not know who exactly was revived, but just knows from the news that 'someone' was revived.

A post-credits scene shows a grizzled Bruce Wayne watching the news of curing the plague, while outside, he witnesses Gotham's citizens have stopped their hopeless strides and are watching the TV with awe and inspiration.

BATMAN: DARK KNIGHT OF TRUTH

Mostly takes place at night. As Clark grows up in Kansas, Bruce grows up in Gotham. Gotham is run down, and the plague had only been making it worse. But Gotham's citizens cling onto hope as its politicians tell them that everything will be alright as long as they believe in ideals. Batman, too, believes in ideals that he transform Gotham. Then, one day Zod's forces arrive, and Gotham's citizens are in awe as Superman does the impossible. Inspired by these miracles, Gotham's citizens form fan clubs for Superman, and begin to strive for miracles. Batman, who has been hardened to reality, begins to consider having hope for impossible ideals. He thinks back to his dead parents, and wonders if they can be revived, too.

But these ideals quickly turn into dangerous delusions. Gotham's mentally unstable citizens (who are much, much worse off than the rest of humanity) delude themselves into thinking they can do anything, and this leads to people committing crimes and committing suicide because they were misled by cult leaders and politicians who claimed these actions would lead them to a better life.

One of these people is Dr Victor Fries, whose wife died from the plague just a few weeks before Superman found the cure. After hearing the news reporting that someone was successfully resurrected from the dead with the help of Superman, Dr Fries is led astray by delusions into thinking that he can reconstruct this technology. Dr. Fries joins with mob bosses and corrupt politicians- constantly switching sides- to gain access to resources that will steal what knowledge is left for this resurrection tech. He discovers that similar compounds used in the tech are actually found on Earth, in places called Lazarus Pits. Even better, they can resurrect anyone, even those gone from thousands of years ago. During the movie, this is not overtly shown,

but hinted at through clues that Batman finds. Batman finds journals that Victor writes, but Victor himself is rarely shown on screen until near the end. Instead, only the aftermath of Victor's crimes- which results in deluded people being manipulated to commit crimes that help Victor- are shown, and Batman must deal with them as he tries to outsmart this stealthy villain.

Batman is alerted of a string of murders, and the police suspect that it is committed by someone who is after control over the city. But using his detective skills, Batman slowly learns the true menace behind the crimes. He becomes convinced that people's delusions- exacerbated by outlandish promises from politicians and corporations who manipulate people for personal gain- are the cause behind these crimes. But the police, who are now entrenched in these ideals, do not believe him. Batman learns that resurrection tech may actually be built, and is tempted at the thought of using it to revive his parents. There are also hints that mind control technology is at play.

However, it is later revealed later that the mind control was purposely put there to mislead detectives; there is no mind control tech. Batman deduces that Victor Fries, now known as Mr Freeze, is behind these chilling murders, and discovers that he has teamed up with Ra's Al Ghul to use the Lazarus Pits's chemicals to construct technology that can revive his dead wife Nora. Ra's plan is to use Freeze's technology to strengthen the League of Assassins. Mr Freeze dresses in a hat, overcoat and red glasses, but his gloves are chilly, and hints of ice mist out of these gloves. His skin is hidden under these detective-like gloves, but it's faintly shown he has blue skin. When the gloves are off, this mist gets everywhere, and Mr Freeze is able to shoot a specialized handgun to freeze people with his powers. He looks like a mob member (like Arthur Slugworth from Willy Wonka) instead of a spaceman with a helmet. This appearance is shown in the background before Batman deduces that Victor is the true culprit.

At the climatic fight near the Lazarus pits, Mr Freeze dons his spaceman-like suit to fight Batman, but the villain is stopped. However, after the battle, the detective learns that Nora has already been revived for a few days, and that Mr Freeze has been happy ever since. Batman realizes that Victor has stopped committing crimes because Nora is alive again. Ra's (who trained Batman in the League of Shadows and thus knows his true identity, though won't tell anyone due to swearing a code) tells Batman how happy Victor is, and that Batman, too, can be released from his pain too by reviving his parents.

Batman is tempted by Ra's to use it, but after reflecting on the delusions that led Gotham astray, he backs down, choosing to use logic instead of emotion, as he deduces that the risks of the tech are too great. Instead, Batman chooses to unfurl the showman's curtain, chases Ra away, and discovers that although Nora is revived, she is a deformed, pathetic monster, and that Victor has deluded himself into thinking that everything is okay. Horrified, Batman apprehends Mr Freeze, turning him over to Gordon, who followed Batman to assist him. Alone, Batman gives a merciful death to 'Nora'.

Bruce Wayne visits his parents' graves once again, despondent that he cannot speak to them one last time. He uncovers Superman's identity as Clark Kent, and finds out that the person who was revived was his mother Martha Kent. Batman grows bitter that Superman was able to rescue his mother Martha, but he was not. He has now seen the disastrous effects of Superman's 'ideals'. He now fully believes that Superman is a danger to humanity- though he stopped Zod, giving such god-like powers to humans is dangerous, and Superman, who was raised by human culture, is no different than any other human who is able to be corrupted by power.

A post-credits scene shows Diana Prince witnessing Superman, remarking that gods are not just in Themyscira anymore, but have made their way into the world of man. And when they meet, there can only be chaos.

WONDER WOMAN:

Takes place a decade before Superman. In Themyscira, the muscular, large, raven haired Diana is the strongest warrior of all, sculpted from clay by Hippolyta and blessed by the 12 gods of Olympus to protect her island. She and Circe, a priestess she doesn't like that much, are ordered by Hippolyta to go and stop human intruders. Diana meets Steve Trevor, a young soldier who is escorting the humans, and a rich human aristocrat who is leading the mission. She learns from them that they aimed to discover the 'wondrous' lost civilization of Themyscira because the aristocrat wanted to speak to god of War, Ares, to stop the violent wars afflicting the human world, which he believes have been influenced by Ares's powers. One cause of the war is a plague, and the aristocrat believes Ares is making it harder for humans to work together to stop the plague instead of fighting over who gets to escape from it. Before the expedition, a messenger from Olympus tells the aristocrat to call off his endeavor, but he does not listen to her. The aristocrat tricks the messenger, and uses her to find his way to the lost island. Diana and Circe capture the prideful humans, bringing them to Mt Olympus, where the gods will set judgment upon them. The opening scene ends.

Soon, Diana decides that she is curious of the outside world, and journeys to the aristocrat and Steve's home town, only to find it marred by war with devastation she had never seen, as she had spent her life in paradise. There, she discovers that monsters have been capturing civilians and eating them. Disobeying orders to not interfere with the world of the humans, Diana goes to stop the monsters. She ventures into deep, abandoned basements of haunted, ruined buildings, and easily slays the behemoths. The civilians are in awe of this new heroine, whom they call Wonder Woman. They ask her for help to stop their wars, and though unsure if she can stop such conflicts, agrees.

But when Diana examines the head of one of the monsters, she discovers that it is the head of the aristocrat, and feels guilty with sin. She then sees that one of the monsters that is still alive resembles Steve Trevor. Horrified, she goes to Circe to ask for answers. Circe tells Diana that the humans were punished by the gods to become monsters, and were set loose on the human world. Diana then discovers more sins committed by the same gods who blessed the Amazonians with their powers and prosperity. The gods had punished the humans for their arrogant disobedience by inflicting many ailments on them. Ares had exacerbated the human conflicts due to the humans' refusal to worship the gods like the Amazonians had. The gods' curses also allowed an alien plague to infect the mortals. The Olympians are selfish and wish to rule the entire world; those who choose not to obey them are punished. Finally, if any mortal chooses to disobey their draconian demands, the gods harass mortals with no consequence. They justify this with all the misdeeds humans have committed of their own will, independent of the gods' intervention.

Unable to work with the gods any longer, Diana travels to the court of Queen Hippolyta and exposes the truth of the gods to the Amazonians. She throws the head of the former aristocrat down at the feet of the gods's messengers. The Amazonians are divided, as they believe the humans deserve such a punishment. Diana argues that humans deserve second chances, and should not have their lives be governed by gods. The Amazonians tell her that if they refuse the gods, then all their blessings will be gone. Hippolyta, her mother, scorns her for her insolence. Then, despite the implication that many Amazonians fear the gods, the tribe chooses to exile Diana away from their land. One Amazonian, Diana's friend, is inspired by the warrior's words and diplomatically goes with the princess to ask the gods to ask for change. But after being enraged that she dare defy them, they torture her as she begs Diana for help. Her life is ended when Ares, after torturing her the harshest, snaps her neck. Then, the gods ravage Diana but do not kill her, as they wish to teach her a lesson and see if she will submit. She is thrown onto her back, and Ares walks up to her,

towering over her with his Spear ready to thrust into the fallen warrior. Just as Diana thinks she is about to die, Circe enters the scene to intervene by creating an enormous distraction using powers never seen before, saving the warrior princess. When she awakens, Diana feels her life is indebted to the witch she had previously disdained, and swears to pay her back.

[So far 45 minutes have passed in the 2.5 hr movie]

With the death of her most loyal friend, the banished Amazonian is now on a quest of vengeance, vowing to stop the gods to save the humans. Circe reveals she has been siphoning power independent of the Olympians, using powers from the Titans of Myth (primordial deities existing long before the Olympians). She tells Diana that for each god she slays, she will lose the power that they gifted to her. The gods cannot take her powers away simply by command, but if they die, the source of that power is gone. However, there are other ways to obtain power: by learning the Arts of the Titans. These are not gifts bestowed upon mortals by the Titans, but forbidden techniques researched by mere mortals who studied the magic of the primordial beings. These Arts require intense discipline to learn, and can endanger the lives of those who dare to undertake their lessons. If Diana can find and master these Arts, then she will be able to compensate for the raw power she loses.

The Titans of Myth seek to return the impure world to chaste nature, and topple the civilizations that the Olympians gifted mortals in exchange for obedience and stripping them of many rights. The Titans do not wish to grant misfortune or fortune to mortals and Amazonians, but simply want a powerful soul in return, though their reason for this is yet unknown. In secret, Circe has offered them the soul of Diana, who is unaware of the witch's shady dealings, after Diana dies. Circe's agenda is to get rid of the Olympians so that no gods can stand in her way when she enacts her plan to take over Themyscira and its limitless sources of magic.

Diana and Circe set off in the world to learn the 12 Arts of the Titans. They are:

1. The Constellations of Crius- counter to Hermes
2. The Divination of Phoebe- counter to Hestia
3. The Relief of Tethys- counter to Aphrodite
4. The Sight of Theia- counter to Artemis
5. The Memory of Mnemosyne- counter to Demeter
6. The Judgment of Themis- counter to Athena
7. The Veracity of Coeus- counter to Hades
8. The Light of Hyperion- counter to Apollo
9. The Torrents of Oceanus- counter to Poseidon
10. The Piercer of Iapetus- counter to Ares
11. The Womb of Rhea- counter to Hera
12. The Scythe of Cronus- counter to Zeus

They first return to the aristocrat's home town, where Circe frees Steve from his monster form, and they discover the first Art. Steve proves invaluable for helping the duo navigate the human world. He also serves as a stealthy spy, survivalist and sharpshooter. Over the course of 10 years, Diana trains herself and journeys through both the Paradise Islands and the human world with her group to collect the Arts that allow her to challenge the gods. Before killing each one, she attempts to persuade the deity to leave their divinity and thus relinquish their powers over humans, but all refuse. The story now resembles a God of War boss rush.

The 12 Olympians are:

1. Hermes: hard to catch and annoying troublemaker; you must make him come to you, if you dare.
2. Hestia: meek and hating confrontation, she wishes to hide from Diana. She hides behind Aphrodite, her polar opposite who abuses and berates her, for protection.
3. Aphrodite: vain and beautiful, she was incredibly jealous of Diana upon her birth. She revels in the chance to destroy her.
4. Artemis: the patron saint of Diana, she is the one the warrior turned to throughout her life for guidance. She is serious and does not give into her emotions easily. Along with Athena, she is one of the two gods who actively chases down Diana.
5. Demeter: quiet and homely, but houses a darker, vengeful side underneath if agitated.
6. Athena: proud, vindictive but wise, she constantly follows Diana to attempt to sway her away. Though she ultimately does not prevail, she succeeds in getting Diana to become more sophisticated in her critical thinking, understanding that the world's morality is not black and white, but grey. Her questions provoke Diana to doubt Circe, and suspect that the witch is turning to primordial forces that would curse them all in the long run. Over time, Athena begins to admire Diana's growing aptitude for dialogue, which contrasts with the student's past, when the princess dismissed diplomacy and deep thought in favor of battle.
7. Hades: unsmiling and stoic, he detests the vanity of the Olympians. Hades prefers to be alone and away from commotion. He does not judge the fairness of deaths; he is only dedicated to confine them to his world once they come.
8. Apollo: confident, calm and vain, he is never angry nor afraid, and is playfully quick witted. He appears to 'go with the flow', smoothly accepting whatever happens to him as Fate. He does not have a bone to pick with anyone, only finding the good in whatever is happening to him in the moment.
9. Poseidon: incredibly angry and intimidating, he is the most fearsome god. Next to Zeus, his powers are unrivaled.
10. Ares: cowardly, thin skinned and easy to agitate, he only picks on the weak and fears the strong. His sadism knows no bounds, and if offended, will use whatever craven ways he can to seek revenge.
11. Hera: jealous and selfish, she only cares for her own creations, and nothing else. This makes her detest Diana, and throughout the centuries, has secretly whispered poison in Aphrodite's ears to make the young goddess grow more and more hateful of the princess.
12. Zeus: he seeks obedience and humility over all else, believing himself to be the most just being on Earth, when he is actually an acute hypocrite. He is holier than thou and blind to his own flaws. He erects an oppressively patriarchal society, and the Amazonians are under the illusion that they live under a free matriarchy.

Diana asks help from Hephaestus, a banished god, to accompany her on the journey and forge her weapons and armor. Using rare materials Steve found, the lame god crafts a sacred rifle for the former soldier.

During the journey, clues suggest that freeing the humans from the gods is what allows Superman to land on Earth by chance, as the gods had cast cursed misfortunes on the humans that prevented such Hope from arising. The Olympian gods had nullified contact between Earth and the Kryptonians, and cut them from their biological species cousins, the mortal humans. Circe also gives a cryptic prophecy that seems to hint of Superman landing on Earth.

First, Diana figures out how to summon the messenger Hermes, and kills him, losing her incredible Speed; she knew that without her Speed, she could not catch Hermes, so he had to be dealt with foremost. Next, she goes to see Aphrodite, and finds the trembling Hestia living with her. Diana does not wish to kill Hestia and tries to persuade her to give up her divinity, but her fearful obedience of Aphrodite results in her

accidental death when Diana stabs Aphrodite and Hestia together, unaware that the mild mannered goddess had ran to her abuser for shelter. Hestia's death seeps Diana of much of her Durability, and the death of Aphrodite drains her persuasive Silver Tongue and Charms.

Artemis, who has been stalking Diana as the princess ran away from her in fear, finally corners her formerly devout follower. Diana narrowly outsmarts the goddess, and when she slays Artemis, it is a true, symbolic decree that there is no turning back. Her death severely wrecks Diana's mind and she sheds tears over the goddess's grave, losing her most cherished gift- her Dexterity, the sense that made her most sensitive to nature.

After being distraught from killing Artemis, Diana is lulled by lyres into a warm home, and in a hypnotic trance, nearly forgets her journey as she lives in comfort with her saintly, caring guardian. But soon, Steve discovers that it is the home of Demeter. When the foreign soldier insults the goddess by not paying respects in her temple, he is imprisoned and starved, while Circe is trapped in a constant run from her darkest nightmares within an enchanted globe. This lasts for several months, until one day, an event triggers Diana to remember her enslaved partners; fighting her desires to stay, the princess poisons Demeter over wine and dessert as the goddess attempts to lie to her and lure her back in. Blood drips from Demeter's lips, and she cries as she loses her adored life. Upon the withering of the goddess, Diana, too, coughs up blood, a sign that she has lost her celestial strength. Struggling to keep herself upright, she stumbles through Demeter's home to search for her partners.

What she learns horrifies her: starvation has turned Steve into a skeletal corpse, and without Demeter's spells to keep his mind alive, the soldier submits to death. Circe does not believe it, as early on, the Fates had predicted a different death for him, meaning that now was not his time to die; this was an unjust death. Diana becomes emboldened to voyage into the Underworld and retrieve Steve. Circe informs her that she can not follow as she was barred from the Underworld, and that Diana must do this alone.

As the warrior princess approaches the entrance of the Underworld, Athena stops her, telling her that she has gone too far and is now disrupting the natural cycles of life. Diana refutes her, claiming that the Fates did not intend this death for Steve. But Athena tells her that the judges of the dead have already made their choice. Diana questions how they can defy Fate, and insinuates that the Olympians are hypocrites. Athena is shocked at the princess's courage to defy draconian thought, and says nothing. The goddess begins to contemplate her denial over her blind submission to the Olympians. Sensing deep inside that she has defied her own principles, Athena believes that she has no choice now but to directly confront Diana in battle; the one who truly embodies justice will prevail. The two swiftly duel one another, and in a few seconds, Athena falls. As the goddess dissipates, she tells Diana that the Amazonian will now lose not only her cunning acumen and awareness in battle, but the wisdom that guided her before. From this moment forth, Diana will have to rely on her own volition to overcome what lies ahead.

Diana trails on through the depths of the Underworld, meeting her former friend and the slain aristocrat, saddened that she is unable to bring them with her as their deaths have been justly decided upon by Fate. When she spots Hades, the god does not whisk her away, but simply ignores her, setting the guardians of the Underworld to threaten her as he fades away. She defeats these obstacles, and eventually reaches Hades. But when she contests with him, she is hardly able to think or fight anymore. She only has the powers of Will (Poseidon), Hope (Apollo), Divinity (Hera), Mind (Zeus), and Vengeance (Ares)- all mental traits, and none of which bestow her with fighting ability. Not even the Arts she learned- which proved invaluable against the other gods- can help her. Weakened, she can barely graze the fragile Hades, who toys with her, and slowly, physically beats her down, stepping on her with his foot. But seeing Steve grants her the last of her spirit, and with everything left in her, she lifts Hades's foot up and throws him off her. Then,

she frees hordes of those unjustly imprisoned by the gods in the underworld. They turn against their warden, and Hades drowns in the sea of souls. With the last of her strength depleted, Diana falls to her knees, and faints. She has now lost her gift of immortality.

Steve carries the dying Diana, who has lost much of her mass, in his arms, and travels through a long, winding mountainous path from the Underworld to Mount Olympus. Using the helmet of invisibility stolen from Hades, he evades the guards, and sees the doors to the throne room just ahead. But the guards finally detect him, remove his helmet, and beat him down. Diana tries to get up, but the guards subdue her, too.

Just as she is about to die, from the corner of her eye, she sees the soles of Amazonian warriors. They pounce on the guards, and attack the other warriors of Olympus. The Amazonians, who have been inspired by Diana's journey and have secretly been researching ways to harness anti-god magic to replace the Olympian blessings powering their civilization, come to save their banished princess. This magic comes from many other sources, such as nature, emotion, and primordial essences like Chaos. The armies are led by Queen Hippolyta, and have been enchanted by Circe to become stronger than ever before.

But right after hope returns, a spiked ball and chain lashes out from the throne room, and bashes through Diana's abdomens. Ares emerges, haughty with pride. Diana succumbs to her wounds. Hippolyta cries out over her daughter's death.

Three of the remaining Olympians- Apollo, Poseidon, and Ares- descend down from their throne room to destroy the Amazonians. Zeus and Hera arrogantly believe they do not need to get their hands dirty, and sit back to watch. Circe is able to hold them back, but not for long. She calls for help from the Titans, but they refuse her pleas, as revival is forbidden in their contract. The imprisoned Titans then begin to take the soul of Diana. In a panic, Circe decides to break her pact with the Titans, and uses forbidden powers to not only revive her, but imbue her with the strength of these malevolent entities- these powers were forbidden from mortals because they could make a mortal mad, and cause them to destroy the entire world. Circe knows that disobeying her bargain with the Titans by dipping too much into their powers would have severe consequences, but she takes the risk as she is willing to give everything to defeat the gods.

Now revived as Wonder Woman, the awakened demi-goddess faces Apollo, who is raining arrows of the Sun down at the warrior army. After a great struggle, in which she utilized many of the 12 Arts she learned, she stabs Apollo through the heart, and he smiles, accepting his fate, as he knew the reign of the vain Olympians would inevitably come to an end. Without the blessing of Hope, she must find hope from deep within her accumulated struggles. She then challenges Poseidon, who is enraged at her defiance and heretical wielding of the Titans' powers. Poseidon nearly chokes her to death with his torrential waves and whirlpools, but Wonder Woman breaks free of his grasp, and after holding her breath till near death, she captures Poseidon in a drought, dehydrating him into a shriveled, stone husk.

With Poseidon gone, Zeus and Hera see that they are next to challenge Wonder Woman. But they know that in order to match them, the warrior princess must be imbued by Circe with the powers of Chronos and Rhea, powers which when unleashed, may cause such devastation that all of Themyscira would be destroyed. The two know they must retreat.

At long last, Wonder Woman, limping and crawling from her wounds, stands up tall to confront the one she seeks vengeance on the most: Ares. The God of War laughs at the prostrated, weary warrior, and arrogantly charges at her. He knocks her down a few times and thinks he's won, but Diana gets back up, and starts dodging his attacks, using rudimentary, dancing movements of every single one of the 12 Arts, not even unleashing their powers but simply using their martial fighting techniques. Ares starts to become fearful, and tries to flee. But Diana chases after him, and catches him in a rear naked choke. Finally, the

movie ends like an old martial arts movie about revenge; cheerful, victorious music plays the moment Diana gets the upper hand while using the 12 Arts, with the movie moving into the last scene of Diana breaking Ares's neck, which is followed by the engraving of the words 'WONDER WOMAN' on the screen.

Wonder Woman still does not know what Circe did, but discovers the truth in Wonder Woman 2; she must fight the Titans of Myth with the help and training of Zeus. This means that killing gods always comes at a price.

A post-credits scene shows that Themyscira is now being constantly threatened by those who wish to claim it after the Olympians left it, so Wonder Woman must stay there to protect it. But on this day, Diana is leaving Themyscira, as there is one day a year during a festival when no threats are able to attack the island. Diana is going to meet Steve. Before she can see him, on the news, she witnesses Superman.

SUPERMAN V BATMAN:

Humanity is recovering from plague and war, and now fully believe in Superman. Superman has sided with LexCorp's CEO, Lex Luthor, to help usher in a new age of technology using reverse engineered Kryptonian tech. Lex Luthor becomes a public hero as he's instrumental to helping the world recover from the near apocalypse, while Superman is still revered but feared as a foreign entity. Thus, Superman must side with Luthor to help his reachability with the public. But in the isolated, forgotten city of Gotham, Batman has seen the horrifying consequences of their idealism. He knows that Superman and Luthor must be stopped.

Batman's predictions seem to come true when Lex Luthor's son dies in an accident caused by people who were deluded by Superman's ideals, just as Victor Fries was. But someone frames the public into believing that his son was killed by Batman. Batman is now on the run from the public, and the US government has ordered Superman to take down the dark knight.

When Batman is cornered by the military now empowered by new Kryptonian tech, a mysterious ally saves him. Batman deduces that this ally is Lex Luthor, and meets with him in secret. Luthor tells Batman that he believes that Batman did not kill his son, and that he knows the true perpetrators of the act: people who were being guided by Superman in a project that could never work. These people were driven by emotions, not logic. Luthor says he cannot speak up in public against Superman as all of society has allied with him, and he is so invincible now that he is immune to criticism. Luthor tells Batman that the truth must be revealed, and the detective is the only one who is able to gather enough evidence to convict the true perpetrators, link them to Superman, and reveal the truth in the court of law. Then, Superman can be imprisoned, and once all the fault is placed on him, these harmful delusions will subside.

Batman rejects Luthor's help at first, saying he can do it alone, but Luthor reveals that he has evidence that only he can obtain, and Batman cannot win this case without him. With no other choice, Batman allies with Luthor to discover the truth. Batman runs from Superman, mirroring the movie 'Predator'. The movie also shows Superman's perspective- it shows that he must deal with the public who is tormented by both beliefs of idealism and realism. Though he has near infinite power, Superman still does not know how to save humanity's minds from themselves; he did it once, but now, he cannot replicate these results. Still, after undergoing the Phantom Zone that tested his resolve at its peak, he does not let his beliefs shatter.

Superman showed the public Hope in the previous movie, and now, he learns he represents another ideal: Truth. Throughout the movie, people become more and more deluded, mixing up hope and lies.

Superman realizes that the two must be differentiated, and tells people that Truth must be strived for. When confronted by doubts that realistically, the full truth may never be known, Superman tells the public that in his eternal idealism, the full truth will always eventually be revealed, no matter how long it takes. This is an extension of Superman's philosophy that belief can lead one to achieve the impossible.

Meanwhile, as Batman runs from Superman, he also digs deeper into Superman's past to try to find his weaknesses. He discovers an experiment creating a 'perfect being' agonized by the death of all Kryptonians. The detective discovers this being landed on Earth like Superman, as something about Earth drew Kryptonian ships towards it, though they were not able to land on the planet until the Olympians' curses were lifted. He finds that someone- likely the one who framed him- has gotten access to this Kryptonian. This reinforces his belief that dealing with Kryptonian technology is dangerous, and that uncontrolled hope can lead to humans dealing with experiments that will cause their doom. Batman tells Lucius Fox to look further into this matter while he deals with Superman.

Superman is able to corner Batman and the two fight. But soon, it's revealed that Batman had lured him into a trap, and he is weakened by Kryptonite provided to him by Luthor. Superman's promise to never kill stops him from killing the dark knight, and eventually, the dark knight emerges as victorious. Now Batman stands over the man of steel, and Superman asks him if he is willing to compromise his no-kill rule to stop Superman. Batman says that though he believed firmly in this rule before, he now questions it as an 'ideal', which has led many astray. Batman tells Superman that though many in humanity benefit from idealism, those who have been tossed aside and forgotten- such as Gotham- are doomed to never achieve their dreams. Instead, it is better for them to carve out a realistic path in their life, rather than to cling onto delusions that will lead to self-harm.

Superman, reflecting on what he has witnessed, tells Batman that there is truth to what he is saying. He finally acknowledges the faults in his ideals, but is unwilling to give them up. Batman asks him why, and Superman replies that without dreams and hope, there is no reason to live. Even when the people of Gotham walk through 'realistic' lives, they must still have hope in these small steps; they have to have hope they will succeed at their job, at helping others, at being happy. Because life is unpredictable, and all one can cling to is belief. These words reach Batman, but still, the dark knight says that if he is challenged- if he were to live in Batman's world- would he remain good and optimistic? Or would he gamble with becoming nihilistic and fearful, needing to live in a world of total control instead of a world of risk and hope?

Despite these refutations, Batman begins to see Superman's side in things, and questions his own cynicism. Had he gone too far in extremism, rejecting all of idealism in favor of realism? Did Superman truly need to be destroyed in order to save people from themselves?

The two had attacked one another before in acts of emotion, due to distrust of one another propagated by outside sources. Now, Batman is able to reach out to the enemy through talking, and tells Superman that he was framed. He shows him the evidence, and the two realize that they were set up by Luthor, who situated the events so that the two would never have a chance to talk, but would need to destroy one another first. Superman is upset that his childhood friend would betray him, but he had seen signs that Luthor was against him, and had prepared for this outcome. Luthor had predicted that Batman, lusted by vengeance and willing to compromise his no-kill rule, would destroy Superman, as he thought Superman was a threat to his power. But now, the two overcome Lex's tricks, and team up to defeat Luthor and reveal the truth to the public.

However, as the two sneak their way to Luthor, the villain has quickly caught on to their plan, and confronts them. He traps them and does not allow the outside to know the truth. The two fight Luthor, and corner him. Lois is able to find a way to get the media to record what is happening. Batman is able to present

evidence that his son is actually alive. However, before he can present evidence that Luthor was behind this framing, Luthor's bots take back control of the media, and destroy the rest of Batman's evidence. Luthor's bots use fake evidence to convince the people that Luthor saved his own son from being kidnapped by Batman. These bots also have the ability to mind control people.

These bots are controlled by nano-implants inside Luthor, and the heroes realize that the only way to stop these propaganda bots is by killing Luthor. The reason why Luthor had full control was because this Kryptonian tech was a prototype, and only one was available, so Luthor only entrusted it to himself, as he did not want others to mind control him. If they do not stop him soon, this mind control will permanently spread into people's minds, and even if Luthor dies, the bots will still mind control people. Luthor turns the cameras on Superman and himself.

Superman is forced into a hard position: he has to kill Lex Luthor to stop his rampage, but then the public would think Superman killed their hero. Batman realizes that he has to show Superman as a sign of hope, and the public mind has just recently shifted into thinking that Superman was a hero. Only either Batman or Superman can stop the villain. Thus, on public TV, Batman kills Lex Luthor, reinforcing Luthor's lie that Batman is evil. Batman thinks this is worth the sacrifice: the dark knight will fall, and humanity's hope will take his place.

However, Luthor has a backup plan. Upon his death, his last will is to have his robots congregate into a mechanical super lab the size of a city, with the Kryptonian experiment's pod inside, and the contraption revives Doomsday. Luthor does this before as it would put entire world in danger, which Luthor wants to avoid as he truly wants to help humanity, only distrusting Superman. Luthor knows that only Superman can stop Doomsday. Yet there is a catch- Doomsday is infused with all the Kryptonite that Luthor has left, and the only way to stop it is to reach into its core, which is pure Kryptonite. Superman would die.

Batman knows Doomsday was the Kryptonian experiment he was reading about, and calls Lucius to ask him all he learned about the monster. The dark knight learns how to stop the plagues it emits from harming the nearby cities, while Superman fights Doomsday head-on, trying to defeat it as fast as he can.

Eventually, Superman is able to weaken it and find its core. Knowing he has no other choice, Superman immediately flies into the monster's weak point and sacrifices himself. The cameras catch this moment, and Lois cries out. The monster is defeated, and now all of the fake beliefs implanted in people from mind control are reversed before they can do permanent damage. But hysteria still makes people believe that Batman was the one who created the monster; Lex had planned this all along by seeping in information- not using mind control- that would lead people to falsely piece this conclusion together. The public now hunts down the dark knight, as they believe he is the one who killed their hero. Still, Batman knows that Superman's ideals are upheld, and that since his image is not tarnished, his hope will survive. He knows that those who truly align with Superman will seek to do the impossible, and this will force them to fight against LexCorp and learn the truth.

Batman is torn between revenge and justice, which are functionally very similar yet are done with different intents, and thus, cause different consequences. He is tied to his past, and thus is determined to stop the unjust crimes against innocents. The people of Gotham still need a protector. Thus, Batman chooses to return to Gotham under a new alter ego, as Bruce Wayne still needs to run it. He promises the late Superman that he will uphold the persistent belief that truth will be found, even if it seems impossible.

Clark begins to realize that pure idealism has its flaws, and this makes him question himself. He wonders that if his pure idealism truly does not work, how can he deal with it? This is not resolved before his death.

Batman 'wins' because Superman realizes his flaws, but the two do not give enough credit to just how important idealism is. At the last moment, Batman does consider this so he saves Superman. Still, he is unsure if he made the right choice because this led to him being hunted down, and the truth being suppressed. Only in Justice League do they realize that idealism has its place, or else something like evil Superman would come about. Justice League shows what would happen if Batman did not realize this at the last moment and let Superman, instead of himself, kill Lex. After the Man of Steel kills Luthor, the 'realism' that Batman convinces Superman of attacked the Kryptonian's belief in eternal optimism, and Superman descends into thinking that people cannot be trusted with hope; only he can. This later spirals into Evil Superman in Justice League, exploring an alternate timeline when Batman is unable to stop Superman from killing Lex.

The post-credits scene has Barry Allen, who was inspired by Superman's speech about having the will to dream will allow truth to prevail, tirelessly pushing himself in his research to uncover shreds of evidence that suggest LexCorp was behind this whole act, giving hope that the truth will be revealed.

THE FLASH:

Takes place after Superman v Batman. University student Barry Allen is an independent forensic investigator, working with his friend Victor Stone and Victor's father Silas Stone. Barry's dad is in jail, and is blamed for his mother's death. Barry aims to prove the world wrong and clear his father's name. He knows that he saw the Reverse Flash kill his mother, though DNA evidence shows that Henry Allen is the culprit.

One day, during a university lab explosion accident caused by Professor Zoom, he is saved by his hero The Flash, whose alter ego is discovered by Barry as "Jay Garrick", a scientist who was thought to be deceased. But during the incident, Barry is accidentally caught in the explosion and gains the power of the Speed Force. Jay Garrick temporarily loses his powers, and Barry must take over as the Flash. Jay then helps Barry and Victor stop Zoom and his team of hired rogue metahumans; Zoom does not reveal himself yet, only leaving trails of his crime behind. Barry also saves his close friend, the ginger Iris West, from harm, but for now, the two do not begin a romantic relationship.

Halfway through the story, Barry discovers that Jay is Zoom, as they share a split personality, and Jay wants Barry's help to defeat his split personality. What has been happening is that Professor Zoom has been committing crimes to stop the futuristic utopia and its time travelers, and Jay is undoing all the crimes that Zoom committed. Zoom found ways to become so powerful that nothing can restrain him, and no technology can defeat him, which is why Jay cannot just have Zoom be captured and killed. Instead, he is researching ways to defeat Zoom, and can only stave off Zoom's dystopia in the mean time. Jay says that "Jay" is a split personality that arose when one side of Zoom was so consumed by guilt that it created a different side that wanted to stop itself; glitches in the speed force caused this to become a different self, so the two selves are actually the same person.

Jay can tell when Zoom will take over, so he can prepare for whatever Zoom chooses to throw at him. The two must use mental tricks to hide their plans from one another, but since it is hard to do so and the duo is constantly conversing, they often discover what the other is about to do and must try to threaten them not to do so. When Jay becomes powerless, he has to relay information he obtains from Zoom to Barry. Jay speaks to 'Zoom' telepathically and the audience believes they are two separate entities, but they are actually the same.

Jay reveals Zoom's backstory: In the year 2451, Eobard idolized the Flash, and aimed to be worshipped by many just like the Flash. However, his society was a utopia with no need for superheroes anymore. He finds

it is stale and passionless. Desiring to return to an age that needed heroes, Eobard uses the speed force to travel back in time. There, he became the Flash, and waits for the Flash's arch nemesis, Professor Zoom, to appear. But when all the crimes in Central City were stopped, Eobard's passion waned. He then realized that the timeline was on its way to become a utopia, with his heroics being a one of the direct causes. Thus, he destroys all the technology and plans needed for society to progress to a utopia; however, his computer still shows that the timeline is on the same path. It turns out that those from the future had traveled back in time to influence the world and set it on the path of a utopia; without their help, the world is not guaranteed to reach one.

Determined to put an end to these people, Eobard is forced to kill not only them, but other innocent people, including his heroic friend and colleague Jay Garrick (whom he thought would become the true Flash later on). This makes him feel that he is unable to return to being a 'hero' and must adopt the identity of Professor Zoom. He realizes he does not care for helping people, but only loves the passion that comes from seeing good struggling to defeat evil. Eobard drops the identity of the Flash, believing that as Zoom, he is doing more to prevent the human spirit from dissipating. More heroes arise to attack Zoom, and Zoom enjoys the challenge. He sees himself as a force of natural selection, helping the heroes get stronger and stronger, so they can inspire greater and greater passion in the world.

As The Flash, Jay does all he can to stop Zoom. Without Jay, Zoom would have plunged the world into a dystopia already. Zoom's efforts are tied to the Olympian god's curses and the plague that ravaged in Superman and Batman; he did not cause the plague, but makes it worse and prevents humanity from coming together to figure out how to stop it. Zoom's aim is to create an eternal dystopia because then the world would always need heroes. A dystopia is a more 'extreme' version of the current life, and offers far more excitement and passion due to requiring heroes to struggle more and inspire more in the face of difficulty.

Barry asks Jay if he knows Zoom is behind the death of his mother, but Jay says he does not know. But near the climax of the movie, this turns out to be a lie after Barry discovers the truth of what happened to his mother: When Eobard first arrived to the world, he adopted an alter ego called Henry Allen, as he also wanted to experience the unpredictable, more chaotic world of the past. He enjoys his time as a civilian, and falls in love with another scientist named Nora. He marries her and has a child, Barry. But Nora soon discovers the true identity of Zoom, and vows to stop him. She tries to drain him of the speed force after she drugs him to sleep, but Zoom awakens; fearing that his powers would go away, he tries to stop Nora, but accidentally kills her in the process as during the drain, he lost control of his powers.

Eobard loses his mind when this happens, and in his unstable state from having the speed force being drained away, develops three split personalities of Henry Allen, his deceased friend Jay Garrick and Eobard. "Jay" vows to stop Eobard from killing innocents, but Eobard will not relent from his goal of stopping the utopia. The three reside in the same body; whenever Henry Allen takes over, he subconsciously 'sleep runs' back into prison; the time spent in prison severely limits the work that Jay and Eobard can do. Neither can override this from happening. Henry Allen is not always being watched by guards, and is in solitary confinement. He has found a way to use his powers to mess with the security cameras to trick them into thinking Henry is sleeping when he escapes. The speedster is able to vibrate through walls and bars to escape.

Though Jay and Eobard are completely aware that they all share the same body, Henry does not. Henry has forgotten all about being Eobard and has replaced his past before meeting Nora with fake memories. When Jay lost his connection to the Speed Force, Zoom did not. Jay uses technology to disguise his face and look like the original Jay instead of Henry Allen.

Jay didn't tell Barry the truth because he is ashamed of what happened, and wants to stop Zoom himself. He does not want Barry to get involved, and doesn't think that revealing himself as Henry would do any good. After Nora's death, Zoom discovered ways to become nearly unkillable, and Jay was not able to stop Zoom before this transformation happened.

Enhanced by Silas technology, Barry fights Zoom, who dons the suit of the Reverse Flash. Barry loses but manages to convince Jay and Henry Allen to coalesce back into one personality, and use their newly combined mental strength to temporarily suppress Zoom. Henry Allen realizes that he cannot get rid of the Reverse Flash if Henry Allen still lives on, as he can never be fully suppressed. In order to destroy the Reverse Flash, Henry kills himself by reaching into his own mind and shutting it down. Barry is devastated, as he just got his real father back.

Victor Stone is gravely injured in the ensuing destruction. Silas says he has a way to save him, possibly make him stronger than he was before, but the experiment is a huge risk.

The time travelers realize that messing with the timeline is too dangerous, and now that Zoom is gone, they decide to cease their activities. Barry knows that the Flash's identity must still be kept secret, so he cannot reveal to the world the truth about his dad, but now Joe West knows the truth about his friend Henry, whom he lost trust in when Nora died. Barry and Joe share a moment of silence as Barry is reminded of his admiration of his childhood hero, The Flash, and finds new strength to take over the role.

A post-credits scene shows Diana enjoying her time with Steve. Just then, she hears news of Superman's death, and realizes that without the Man of Steel, the humans will need another savior. She hears trouble close by, and makes a decision on what to do. She runs to a secluded area, grabs onto the Lasso of Truth from her purse, and reveals her lightweight armor underneath her business suit.

Another post-credits scene shows Barry revisiting the evidence he found about LexCorp's guilt and Batman's innocence, but it's shown that it's still not enough to cast doubt on Batman being the culprit. Barry remains cautious about the dark knight. But then, he finds new evidence, yet can't crack it open. He is shocked when he theorizes that the tech that Silas is embedding in Victor may hold the key to decrypting this evidence. Deep in Silas labs, a prototype of Cyborg is seen, with Victor still in a coma, and with a computer monitoring his mind showing that he shows no signs of coming back yet; but just then, on the computer screen, a red eye opens.

JUSTICE LEAGUE:

Months have passed since Superman's death. A monster is attacking a city, and just when all hope is lost, Wonder Woman jumps out of her invisible jet to save the people. Steve Trevor helps evacuate the civilians. But right after defeating the monster, a second one appears, and Wonder Woman can't get to it in time before it attacks a major stadium where people are hiding. Just then, Superman arrives and destroys the monster. The public is in awe and disbelief and reaches out to him, but he does not descend to greet them. Instead, Superman gives a speech about how humans need to be governed, and declares himself as the new ruler of the world. The public is split- some decide to follow him while others oppose him. Left with no choice, this evil Superman orders his new followers to gather up a new army, forcing Lex Luthor Jr under his control, and takes over the planet. Wonder Woman vows to protect the public against evil Superman's army.

Barry Allen hears the news and believes he has to find a way to stop evil Superman. He investigates a strange occurrence and sees a shadow sneak by each time he goes to a spot where he thinks he can gather strong evidence.

Batman is declared a criminal by the government. Bruce Wayne has temporarily stopped being Batman, but with crime still on the rise in Gotham, he realizes he must assume a different identity to fight, scare and deter criminals. However, Gotham detectives believe that this new crime fighter is likely Batman, or knows something about him, and try to capture him as he's fighting criminals. Bruce is annoyed by this. Meanwhile, he is also investigating the same case as Barry Allen, but from a different angle. Batman (in his new disguise that resembles Deathstroke) and Barry meet each other when investigating the same location, but Barry is cautious about Batman being Superman's killer, and does not fully trust him yet. Batman tries to convince Barry of the truth, but has prepared to stop the Flash in case they fight.

Additionally, there is mysterious person, his identity unable to be seen, who constantly appears in/out of reality and helps the heroes with clues that lead them to the right path.

Lois goes to evil Superman to try to convince him to stop. However, evil Superman tells her that he has to use his powers to their full extent to stop war and destruction. He shows Lois that he has ordered Lex Luthor Jr to control the people with as little bloodshed as possible, though he realizes that realistically, there must be some bloodshed upon those who resist him. He also tells her that he came from a different timeline, but does not reveal details on what happened there or how he was able to cross over timelines. Lois tries to leave, but evil Superman barricades her in, telling her that if they discover his true identity, then she will be in danger. Martha Kent is also kept captive for her safety. Evil Superman then orders the destruction of all kryptonite on Earth, rendering himself invincible. Meanwhile, evil Superman mentally converses with a conflicting being in his mind- this is the dead Superman, whose spirit is contacting Superman due to the unnatural explosion from defeating Doomsday trapping Superman's soul in a different dimension.

Evil Superman does not want to kill Batman or reveal his identity because he respects him, but warns him to stand down. Batman does not do so and Superman orders a secret attack on Bruce Wayne's mansion in an effort to destroy the Batcave, and the media thinks it was an accidental fire. Alfred and Bruce escape; Bruce's new suit is damaged so he is forced to don the Batman cowl again, which is the only one left (there was one backup suit on the Batwing that they escaped on). Batman goes to Barry and tells him to come with him to escape; Superman's troops try to snipe Barry Allen with a Speed Force draining serum (these appeared in 'The Flash' but could not work on Zoom, yet could work on Barry) but Batman stops them. Batman convinces the Flash that since he was able to stop Superman before, regardless of whether he's good or evil, he's needed, and that they need to team up to stop the evil Superman. But by themselves, they stand no chance against the robot army. Batman tells Flash that they have to recruit the Amazonians and their magic to battle Lex's robot army that evil Superman has now taken over, as all technological networks have been compromised.

Through his private investigations, Bruce realizes evil Superman is not the same Superman he knew, and to defeat this evil Superman from an alternate universe, they need to resurrect their world's Superman. This requires cooperation between the Amazonians and humans- both of them have part of a special item, its origin uncertain but rumored to be from space, that can be used to summon an orb, only usable once, which can resurrect any being. But long ago, when the Amazonians and humans fought for this item to resurrect their own leaders, this artifact was broken into two and sealed away in each respective civilization.

Batman and the Flash recruit Wonder Woman, who has been going around protecting people who are against evil Superman's reign. It's explained that Diana was caught up with protecting the Amazonians from

various threats that wished to take them over now that they lost the protection of the gods, and did not have time (nor the powers, due to being severely weakened) to save the humans from their major wars until Superman ended them. The only thing she could do was pray that the mortals found a way to save themselves, now that they were free from the curses of the gods. When Superman arrived, it seemed her prayers were answered; but now, it appears it may have been more of a curse than a blessing.

The trio proceed to Themyscira. Diana greets Circe, who reveals that after she broke the contract of the Titans, the primordial deities forbade her from using their magic ever again, so she must seek power from elsewhere. Then, Wonder Woman meets Hippolyta, but is unable to sway the Amazonians. However, she soon uncovers that Circe has betrayed her, and is mind controlling the entire tribe. The witch is secretly trying to resurrect Lex Luthor, who promised her a high ranking position in his new world before his death, and access to technological magick that Circe by herself does not know how to harness. After Luthor died, Circe works with evil Superman because evil Superman plans to use her to obtain the orb in case Lois, Martha, or anyone he is close to dies; but the witch plans to double cross him once Lex is revived. This is because only Lex Luthor knows where the final, hidden stash of kryptonite is that can stop him. Circe realizes she can't obtain the Amazonian's piece without a lot of help, as there are anti-mind control spells that only Lex's technology and expertise can decrypt, so she originally waited for Luthor to come so he can help her take over Themyscira, and once he passed, used the arrival of Evil Superman taking control of Lex Luthor Jr as a backup plan.

Hippolyta orders the Amazonians to attack the trio. Wonder Woman tells the Flash how to disrupt part of Circe's magic to abolish her mind control. He manages to partly reverse it, but Circe stops him and so only a few Amazonians manage to break free. Wonder Woman's speech has ignited a rebellion within the Amazonians. A civil skirmish ensues and the trio battle Circe to escape.

Just when all hope is lost, the mysterious person who has been appearing in/out arrives to save the trio. He reveals himself as a Flash from an alternate future timeline, and has been popping in and out of the Speed Force due to losing control over it. He has finally managed to regain his body, but has lost connection to much of the Speed Force. He explains how evil Superman came to be:

It is revealed that the evil Superman came about in the alternate timeline when Batman is killed after preventing Lex from unleashing the Kryptonian-infused monster, and Superman is vilified for killing Luthor. He tries to leave the planet or isolate himself. His civilian identity, threatened to be revealed by the villain upon his death, is revealed, and Lex Luthor Jr and his men secretly take Lois Lane hostage to lure Superman out so they can kill him with Kryptonite. Superman does not want to kill anyone, but when he hesitates, Lois is killed. In a fit of rage, Superman kills Lex Luthor Jr, and the news picks up on this and vows to go to war with Superman.

Over time, Superman thinks that Lex Luthor was right- he can stop destruction if he governs the world by imposing order onto it, just as Lex Luthor wanted to do by himself. Superman becomes the very thing that Lex Luthor painted him as. After several years, Superman has taken over the world. As a last ditch plan, the Flash hatches a plan to go back in time to prevent Superman from killing Lex Luthor, and successfully paves the way for Batman to kill Lex Luthor instead by biding more time for Batman to think and make up his mind. However, right after this happened, the alternate Flash is grabbed by the alternate Superman, who managed to follow the Flash back in time through the Speed Force continuum, and pushes them both back into the Speed Force continuum, making both of them run into a different place in the timeline. The alternate Flash tried to seal both himself and Superman within the Speed Force when this happened, but by beating up the Flash, the alternate Superman escaped, and he and the Flash found themselves in Metropolis just as the monsters attack the city (these were monsters created by Circe to distract Wonder Woman and

thus use the chance to take over the Amazonians; using her fortune telling, she prophesized that Superman would return at that time). Due to evil Superman's beatings within the continuum, the alternate Flash's connection to the Speed Force is damaged and he is unable to go back in time. The only thing he can do is help his younger self and Batman find a way to defeat evil Superman.

Meanwhile, as good Superman and evil Superman converse, they learn from one another about idealism vs reality, and the good Superman realizes that he truly could've become evil like his counterpart.

The alternate Flash tries to train the Flash to go faster so he can go through time and either trap Superman within the Speed Force, or go back in time to obtain kryptonite that Superman has not destroyed before. The alternate Flash warns the Flash that (unless it's a last ditch effort) he can't go back in time to change events because due to the butterfly effect, too many unwanted events can occur; he can only use it to obtain items. He also tells the trio that the 2nd half of the artifact is currently being held by researchers in a top secret facility led by Silas Stone. Silas is using the artifact's power to create Cyborg. The Flash tells them that Cyborg can hack into the robot army to control it, and thus order them to attack Circe.

Lex Luthor Jr discovers what and where the human's artifact piece is, and sends an army to retrieve it from Silas. Batman uses his detective skills to sneak into the facility. Superman is led away by a distraction created by Batman. The heroes, with Cyborg, stop the army. At the last minute, Superman discovers he was led into a dead end, and arrives at the facility to try to destroy Cyborg and get the artifact piece. Wonder Woman and Flash try to hold him off, but are unable to. With the help of Cyborg's new hacking abilities (which controls the entire facility), however, they are able to escape with Silas, but not with the artifact piece. The group tells Superman that Circe is using the piece to resurrect Lex Luthor, but he does not believe them, and believes that even if they do, he is powerful enough to stop the traitors. Superman destroys the facility.

When the group is in hiding, Cyborg learns how to hack into the robots. The only way to do so is to get into a certain computer located in Metropolis, so the group sneaks into the city. Batman plans how to defeat the armies and orders the others what to do.

Circe brings her forces into the human's world. Superman asks if she truly wants to resurrect Lex Luthor, but during the standoff, Lex Luthor Jr interrupts by alerting Superman that Cyborg has hacked into the army and he is trying his best to salvage the robot army. Circe helps Superman by attacking the army that has turned against him. Superman pushes his way through the army to find Cyborg. When he's distracted, Circe races against Batman to steal the piece from Superman's troops, and Wonder Woman tries to stop her. Flash and alternate Flash are protecting Cyborg by scouting the area and fighting off the army alongside the robots, but they are beginning to get overwhelmed. Wonder Woman defeats Circe and binds her up using special rope, while also putting her in a trance.

However, Superman is shown to be too powerful and temporarily cuts Cyborg off from the computer (the Flash manages to save Cyborg) and gains control of his robot army again. Just as Batman is about to get the second piece, Superman arrives in front of Batman and destroys it, believing that he is so powerful now that Lois or anyone else he cares for won't need to be resurrected. He also caught on to Circe's plan, so he does not want the orb to resurrect Luthor or the good Superman.

The two Flashes run towards Superman, but when the Flash hears that the piece is destroyed, he thinks all hope is lost. However, alternate Flash tells him to keep on running, and the alternate Flash will use his own speed to add onto Flash's speed. The Flash, after many previous failed attempts, finally is able to run fast enough to go back in time. With the one piece in hand and the other piece in the very distant past, a glowing orb is created. Flash grabs the orb and returns to the present (only with the orb, but accidentally dropping the pieces back into the past). Using the orb, he resurrects Superman.

Superman sees the destruction of Metropolis, and flies over to meet Lois. However, evil Superman is right next to her. The two battle while the rest of the group fights the robot army, with Cyborg and Lex Luthor Jr trying to outdo each other.

However, Circe had managed to use a remote flying creature to plant a mind control inside Flash just before he ran back in time, and after 'waking up' from her trance after feigning sleep, manages to take over his mind after he resurrects Superman (she could not do this before as the mind control spell takes time to work). Now with her consciousness in Flash, Circe goes back in time to get the dropped pieces to create a second orb, then orders Lex Luthor to be resurrected. Queen Hippolyta, now free from mind control, attacks Circe to stop her, but it's too late, though the Flash regains his consciousness again. Lex Luthor steps in between Cyborg and his son's battle and gains control back of his robot army, which he has security access to through his DNA (as verification) and mind, and he orders Lex Luthor Jr to revert loyalty of his human troops back to him. Now, he gives Circe access to technological magick, which greatly enhances the ability of his robot army.

During the Superman battle, Evil Superman realizes Lex Luthor has been resurrected and he has been betrayed. The Amazonians and the heroes all battle Lex Luthor, but due to the hidden weapon upgrades that Lex Luthor had been developing before his death (and only Lex Luthor could unleash since they required his permission and DNA verification to do), they prove too powerful. Luthor takes the hidden kryptonite out of his body and Circe fuses the kryptonite, Doomsday's remaining DNA samples and Lex's tech onto her monsters, the same ones that attacked the city at the start of the movie, transforming them into much stronger forms. Alternate Flash tries to stop Lex Luthor but is killed when the monster protects its maker. Evil Superman is distraught over the death of his former friend while feeling guilty for causing the resurrection of Luthor, and begins to remember what Lois said about 'who he really is'.

Evil Superman had lost hope after his timeline's Lois's death because he thought only realism mattered, and his idealism did not. But after conversing with the spirit of Superman throughout the movie, he finally understands the needed balance of idealism and realism. This causes him to become good again; the alternate Superman tells Superman that they have to work together to stop the monster. The two fight the monster while Batman devises a plan to stop the robot army. Alternate Superman realizes that the only way to stop the monster is by sacrificing himself. With the help of Superman, Alternate Superman kills both the monster and himself, and Batman uses his new Batplane to shut down the robot army and capture Lex Luthor.

With evidence brought back from alternate Flash, and other information found by Cyborg, the public learns the truth about how Lex Luthor framed Superman and Batman. Lois writes an article about the heroics performed that day. Circe, Luthor and Luthor Jr are imprisoned. The Amazonians tell Diana that she is needed in the world of mortals, since she has helped their defense systems grow so strong that she does not need to stay on the island to protect them anymore. A memorial is dedicated to all those who had fallen. And finally, the Justice League is formed. The world cheers as their heroes inspire them to do better in the world. The final shot is of the heroes overseeing the construction of the Justice League watchtower.

A post-credits scene hints of Green Lantern.

Another post-credits scene hints of Aquaman.