

HORROR – IF YOU DARE!

An historical study of the genre and
its sub-genres

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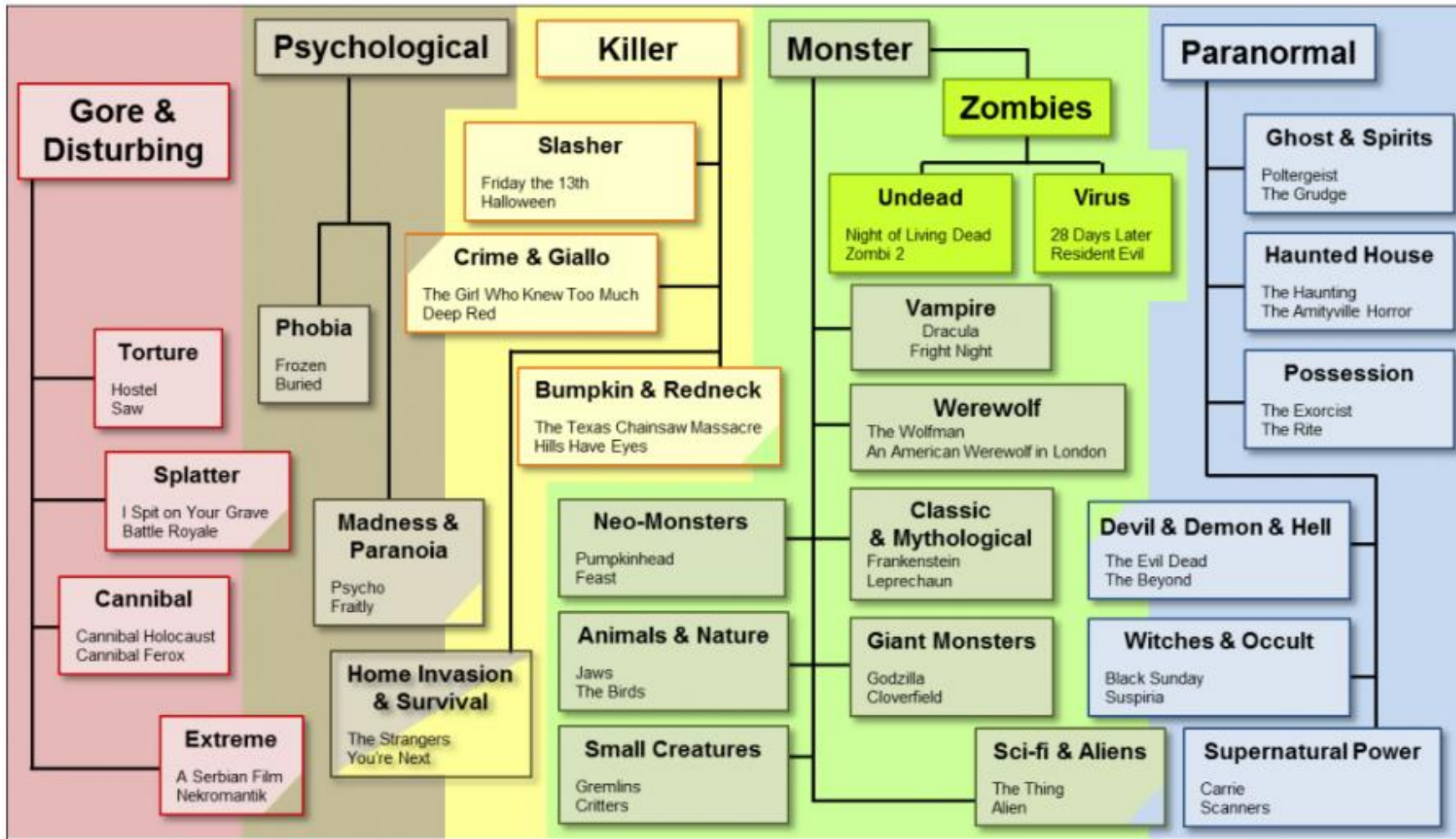
► Horror is a genre of fiction that exploits the Primal Fears of viewers with things ranging from the Uncanny Valley, Body Horror, and Dramatic Irony AKA Suspense to cause the viewer anxiety, fear, and ultimately thrills. It uses various Horror Trope to cause these effects; however, partly due to the rise in complexity of Special Effects, overuse, and viewer desensitization, several of these are now cliché.

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsjpR18SDkc>

HORROR GENRE DEFINED

HORROR GENRES & SUB-GENRES

(by www.horroronscreen.com)



ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S

PSYCHO



TOP 10 HORROR TROPES

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=RIIGWJ6F5K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIIGWJ6F5K)

1. The Jump Scare – mirrors, cats, dark basements; A WEREWOLF IN LONDON, THE CONJURING, THE BLAIR WITCH
2. The Final Girl – usually “good girl” who survives; SCREAM, HALLOWEEN, THE FINAL GIRLS; controversial
3. House with a History – Haunted house, murder house; THE SHINING, THE HAUNTING, THE UNINVITED
4. Man is scariest monster of all – Psychotic regular people; home invasions – YOU'RE NEXT, PSYCHO, SILENCE OF THE LAMB
5. “Or is it?” ending – just when you think it's over, the killer comes back to life – FRIDAY THE 13TH, SCREAM, FATAL ATTRACTION

6. Abandoned Place – woods, asylums, towns, CABIN IN THE WOODS, TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE, THE QUIET PLACE
7. No Coverage – no cell coverage; phones dead; THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET, DEAD END, SILENT NIGHT
8. Vengeful Spirit - ghosts and supernatural beings; THE RING; THE OTHERS, HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL
9. Death by Sex – teenagers dying during or after sex; SCREAM, FRIDAY THE 13, TEETH, SLASHERS
10. Warnings Unheeded – someone warns of trouble but characters don't listen; GET OUT, DON'T BREATH

OTHER TROPES

The dramatic irony scene - e.g. Linda Hamilton's roomie in THE TERMINATOR with her Walkman on, oblivious (Terminator is a horror movie no question, but it's called an Action because well Terminator has a gun and there are explosions).

The hero is trapped in a safe haven with the monster trying to get in - e.g. bathroom scene in THE SHINING

The hero runs from the monster trying to get into a safe haven – HALLOWEEN, Jamie Lee Curtis running to get into a neighbor's house to safety. You can milk these for all their worth and it should work

TOP 10 TROPES CONTINUED

TOP RATED IMDB HORROR FILMS

ALIENS (1986) – sci-fi, creature horror; Tropes - final girl, jump scares, abandoned place, no coverage, “or is it?” ending and man is the worst monster

THE THING (1982) – sci-fi, creature horror; Tropes – abandoned place, no coverage, “or is it” ending, jump scares, man is the worst monster, clumsy protagonist

A QUIET PLACE (2017) – post-apocalyptic creature horror; Tropes – abandoned place, jump scares ...



MODERN POST-HORROR

MODERN HORROR SUB-GENRE, called POST HORROR, is no slashers, no jump scares, no stalkers, no people running into backwoods killers, no "final girl," etc.. Using themes rather than cliché tropes to create horror.

Post-horror is "Hey, let's try to be original and not regurgitate the same old bullshit that has (in my opinion) cluttered the genre for the last 40 years"?

POST HORROR is where film-makers are starting to question what happens when you stray beyond those cast-iron conventions and wander off into the darkness. You might find something even scarier. You might find something that's not scary at all.

- ▶ IT COMES AT NIGHT
- ▶ THE WITCH
- ▶ GET OUT
- ▶ BIRDBOX
- ▶ PERSONAL SHOPPER
- ▶ A GHOST STORY
- ▶ HEREDITARY
- ▶ IT FOLLOWS
- ▶ A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE
- ▶ THE BABADUK
- ▶ SPLIT

HORROR BEATS

▶ *Act One (The Setup):*

▶ **1 - The World is Not What it Seems**

- ▶ (Audiences catch an early glimpse of the monster, or a hint that the monster exists. This is optional, and may occur right away – often as a prologue – or after the main characters have been introduced.)

▶ **2 - Putting the Players in Action**

- ▶ (You introduce the important characters and the primary internal conflict)

▶ **3 - Setting them on the Path**

- ▶ (The characters make a choice that inadvertently isolates them or places them on a collision course with the monster)
- ▶ (The characters are given an opportunity to turn back, but choose not to; could occur before or after The First Contact With The Monster.)

▶ **5 - The First Contact with the Monster**

▶ **4 - The Warning**

- ▶ (The characters have their initial contact with the monster, but are unaware of the true threat it poses.)

▶ *Act Two (The Turn):*

6 - Shit Gets Real

(May be the first death or when seriously spooky activity begins; regardless, this is when the danger becomes evident and unavoidable)

▶ **8 - Failed Confrontation**

(The main character attempts to destroy the monster, but does not yet possess the ability to do so)

▶ **9 - The Darkest Hour**

(Hope appears lost. Perhaps someone very important has died, or the hero has tried everything they can think of. The link between the internal conflict and monster may become clear to the character here)

▶ *Act Three (The Prestige):*

10 - A Different Solution

(The hero gains new information on how to defeat the monster. This may be delivered by someone they seek out for help, or may come through soul searching and observation.)

▶ **11 - Seeking Out the Beast**

(For the first time, the hero approaches the monster, rather than fleeing it. They intend to enact their solution)

▶ **12 - The True Cost is Revealed**

(In the process of confronting the monster, the hero realizes that to overcome it, the internal conflict must be encountered and defeated. That is the hidden cost; the hero will be irrevocably changed)

▶ **13 - Sacrifices Are Made (or not)**

(Faced with the ultimate choice, the hero either succeeds in defeating their internal conflict and winning against the monster, or fails and ultimately succumbs to their weakness)

▶ **14 - The Inevitable Fall Out**

(Show the consequences of whichever choice is made)

▶ **15 - Evil Cannot Be Conquered, Only Delayed**

(If the hero failed #13, show the monster relishing its victory in a changed world. If the hero succeeded, show a hint that the monster may yet return.)

- ▶ <http://popcornhorror.com/genres/>
- ▶ <https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Horror>
- ▶ <https://www.raindance.org/6-common-horror-film-tropes/>
- ▶ <https://horrorfreaknews.com/top-5-horror-tropes-time/21145>
- ▶ <https://roadshow.com.au/articles/2017/10/biggest-horror-movies-cliches>
- ▶ https://www.imdb.com/list/ls041837161/?sort=user_rating,desc&st_dt=&mode=detail&page=1
- ▶ <http://tlbodine.tumblr.com/post/162761742239/a-horror-beat-sheet>
- ▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/jul/06/post-horror-films-scary-movies-ghost-story-it-comes-at-night>
- ▶ <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls029345492/>

SOURCES