

The Characterization of Patrick Bateman from the Movie *American Psycho*

American Psycho is a 2000 movie directed by Mary Harron. The film *American Psycho* narrates the story of Patrick Bateman, a wealthy businessman, whose life revolves around rich business partners, work, expensive restaurants, trendy clothes, and perfect looks. He is a bright representative of the elite and he always judges people from the way they dress, look, and the amount of money they have. Nevertheless, the main idea of the film is not just to demonstrate Patrick Bateman's lifestyle, but to reveal his deep emotional experiences. The essay will discuss the characterization of the main hero according to three distinct elements: his Yuppie nature, proneness to psychosis, and misogyny.

First, the movie clearly demonstrates the Patrick Bateman is a representative of the Yuppies, who are leading a luxurious lifestyle and have no serious problems to worry about. He has a fiancée, who is also from the high class and fully corresponds to his ideas of how a woman should dress or look like. He pays much attention to his looks and clothes he wears in particular. For example, he usually wears designer clothes and shoes and expensive accessories, such as a watch or glasses. Besides, he judges the other people from their looks as well. There is a scene in the film, where Patrick Bateman makes some impolite remarks concerning the outfit of Jane, his secretary. He asks her not to wear those clothes anymore, but instead to wear a dress and high heels. In addition, his richness impacts his niche in the society – he is a well-known and respected man, a regular client in rich restaurants, etc. For instance, it is really important to him to be a regular client of Dorsia, the most expensive restaurant in the vicinity. Patrick Bateman wants to be superior and the best in everything – from the way his business card looks like to the way he dresses.

Second, it can be inferred from the movie that Patrick Bateman has a psychotic nature. He is overly obsessed with perfection and his superiority in everything. He is overly attentive to detail and routine. For example, he has a real ritual of grooming: he applies a

variety of skin masks, crèmes, lotions, etc. He wears an ice mask on his face while he does sports in order to look fresh. Besides, he stresses that he never applies lotion that contains alcohol, because it dries skin and makes him look older than he is. He is also obsessed with keeping fit. He tries as hard as he can to make his body look perfect. The abovementioned examples are indicators of his schizotypal personality. In addition, he is a cleanness freak. He becomes furious when there is a possibility of some furniture or clothes to get dirty. When Jane, his secretary, brings a bottle of water and a glass for the detective and is on the verge of putting the bottle on the table, Patrick Bateman quickly puts a coaster under the glass not to leave a stain on the furniture. A similar situation takes place, when Jane puts a dirty spoon on the table in the living room of Bateman's apartment and he immediately gets mad about it. Another example is his hatred of being touched by the other people. He loses control when someone touches his outfit, his watch, or other belongings of his. Additionally, it drives him crazy when the other people have a better flat, go to the same luxurious restaurants as he or even have a better business card. He got extremely angry when the business card of Van Patten appeared to be better than his. Moreover, due to the fact that he often takes drugs and hallucinates, he is unreliable as a narrator. There was an episode when he confessed to his lawyer, Harold Carnes, about all the murders he had committed. Nevertheless, when he meets Carnes at one of the restaurants after this telephone conversation, the lawyer does not seem even to be acquainted with Bateman. At this point, one doubts about the credibility of Bateman's words and actions.

Third, Patrick Bateman undoubtedly belongs to misogynists. On the one hand, he has a beautiful fiancée Evelyn, but, on the other hand, he does not display any feelings for her and does not respect her. When they were riding in a car, Bateman was listening to some music when she was talking about their marriage. Besides, he has an affair with Evelyn's best friend Courtney Rawlinson and does not feel guilty about it. In general, he views women as

objects of his sexual release. He usually has affairs or one-night stands. He uses women only to fulfill his sexual desires and feel his superiority. There is an episode in the movie, when Bateman made love to two women, but at the same time admired his muscled body in the mirror. During the sexual intercourse, he usually behaves like a dominant and even a rapist. There was a situation when a woman with whom he slept needed medical help after the night with him. Additionally, women provoke a kind of 'blood lust' in Bateman. He has an irreversible desire to kill them. Furthermore, he claims that there are no girls with good personality. In most cases, he views women stupid and inferior to men.

In conclusion, it is evident from the movie that all the characteristics of Patrick Bateman analyzed above depict him as an anti-hero. He possesses such set of character traits that make him a real villain. The description of Bateman as a yuppie emphasizes the importance he places on material things. He categorizes people according to the amount of money they possess and is obsessed with wealth and luxury. Besides, he has a psychotic nature that reveals itself in his relationships with the other people, his behavior and lifestyle. Finally, he is a misogynist, and this trait adds up to the aforementioned list of negative characteristics.