

Fear Industrialized

It's scary how bad some new horror movies are.

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

Out of all the genres to pull off, horror is one of the most grueling. People want to feel safe, in order to make them feel truly uneasy or terrified, a fine blend of sound design, tension, pacing, and imagery must be achieved. However, the genre has grown stale -- a refurbishing and dead-horse beating fest of the same cliches, in the same formula.

Stop me if anyone's heard this one. A group of people finds something mysterious and/or moves into a new house that is also mysterious. Shortly after this, bad things happen and people either start dying or start seeing things. The film ends with the group of people either having one token survivor or no survivors, with some cliffhanger ending that says that whatever was killing the people is still popping.

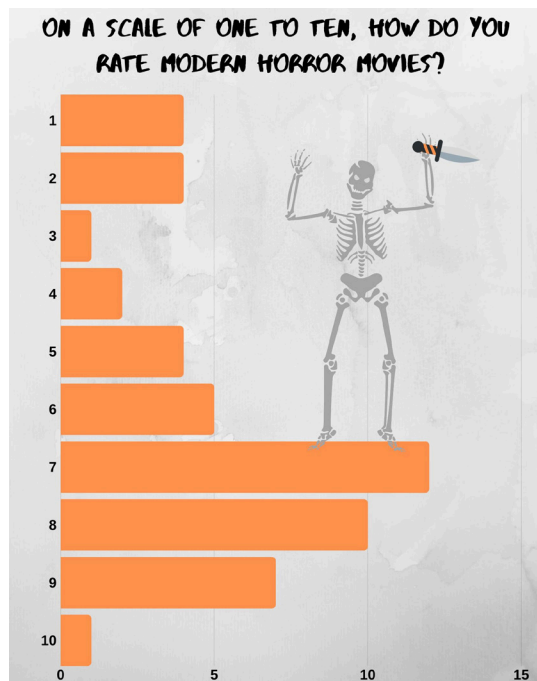
Does that sound familiar? This is the plot of so, so many more films. It's practically the golden formula for get-

ting good money at the box office, but absolutely terrible reviews later on. This is only one of the formulas that most modern horror films follow, with people still eating up cash-grabs like these.

Cliches are made to be subverted, however. Many good films and shows subvert the entire trope described and do it well. The Netflix original show *The Haunting of Hill House* (2018) is a great example of this, instead of just going into describing a haunted house, it takes the viewer through a non-linear narrative that gathers suspense for important events never shown until the end. This is very hard to pull off however, and why would big companies want to do something difficult when they can just opt out to do what's easiest?

This problem encompasses a lot of genres, but horror is among the most affected, as one must deliver the concept in such a specific way in order to make the viewers feel a way their body constantly acts against: fear. When fear can be gathered in a cookiecutter plot already known to work, this format continues. As people go see these new films and said films get a ton of money, the cycle continues.

Scary stories have evolved, and not in a totally good way. While a few glimmers of hope exist in *Us* (2019) and *Get Out* (2017) and other new and original films, for each of these, four more cookiecutter films exist to overshadow it. Viewers should go for originality instead of cheap jump-scares, they should be unnerved -- terrified, not startled by the same tricks over and over. Once we do, these films may get better, but until then, be scared well, and find some fear this Halloween.



Out of a convenience poll of 50 students, 3.9% said school didn't stress them out.

Fully knowing God

By: Bri Fentres @brifentress

Why is it important to know God, and to even put trust in Him? This is a big question, and I could go on and on about the beautiful Father, but to figure it out for yourself is even greater. My story begins with God and will end with God. He defines my past, present, and future. I don't deserve God's free gift of eternal life with Him in heaven. The truth is I've messed up, a lot, but God still pursues me. The craziest thing about it all, is God pursues all of us, even if we're unaware of Him.

Many of you may be thinking, my life is great, why do I need God? The truth is, our lives won't be great forever. Recently I lost a family member, and that took a toll on all of us. Many people assume those who follow God won't experience any pain or suffering. That's a big fat lie from the enemy. God often puts hard things in our lives to grow and mature us, and most importantly to understand we are weak and need His help.

There is sin in the world. We are going to do the wrong thing (probably over half of the time). God knows we need Him, but lets us choose. We choose to follow Him or follow ourselves. In the Bible, John writes, 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." The Lord doesn't promise us a perfect life. There will be many challenges, but He has overcome evil with good. To know God is to know His goodness and experience His abounding love.

Realizing I wouldn't be where I am today without God makes me want to continue to devote every part of my life to Him. So what do I do about it? Well, Jesus has saved me from eternal separation from Him and His glorious kingdom, so I imitate the Father. We are all created by God, and God calls us HIS! It's my job as His daughter to act like Him even if that means saying no

to the things I want. Relationships, money, and popularity all hinder me from imitating God.

I have plugged in to FCA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and that is a place at school where I can express my love for the Lord with others who share the same feeling. Every Wednesday morning at 7:25 am, all are welcome to discover who God has made you to be. God challenges us to grow and mature in Him.

Again in the Bible, in the book of Hebrews it says, 1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." So many things cloud our vision of what is good, pleasing, and perfect to God. I get involved with things that hold me back and take away from what God has gifted me with.

Everyone is gifted with something awesome! Being involved with something I am so deeply passionate about feeds my soul. So take action and get involved with a bible study, be on a team, find your sweet spot and run with it. If I have learned anything throughout high school, it's to get involved and stand for what I am truly created for. God for sure is my best friend, and the crazy awesome thing is He can be yours too! Jesus is not exclusive, in fact He never gravitated towards His "comfortable friends," but He reached out to those He never talked to. I hope you all find something you love so much and are able to use your gifts for good.



Bri Fentres, '20, studies her Bible in her free time.