

How loneliness has been portrayed in horror movies then and now

Robinson, Tasha. "Modern Horror Films Are Finding Their Scares in Dead Phone Batteries." *The Verge*, The Verge, 16 Aug. 2018,

www.theverge.com/2018/8/16/17675474/modern-horror-films-dead-cell-phone-trope-isolation.

- The 60's movie Psycho, Texas Chainsaw Massacre from the '70s, the 80's movie The Shining, and The Blair Witch Project from the 90's all placed the characters in a remote location/ home
- Loneliness makes the characters vulnerable and anxious, this causes worry in the audience because it is easy for the characters to be open to danger
- Many modern films use dead phones to disconnect the characters from contact with emergency services and outside connection
- A phone dying can show character development as well, it shows the characters' lack of attention to detail, they don't reserve the battery of their phones for when they really need it

How loneliness is used and built upon to create fear

"The Top Ten Things That Make Horror Movies Scary." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/cutting-edge-leadership/201410/the-top-ten-things-make-horror-movies-scary.

- Loneliness and isolation ultimately leads to suspense in a film
- Suspense is one of the many popular tactics used in horror films
- Loneliness is a building block to create suspense
- Isolation creates a vulnerability which instills a feeling of anxiety in the audience

Psycho (1960), examples of loneliness in the film

- Marion, the main character, is given money by her boss to take to the bank but she runs away with the money without telling anyone
- She stays at a motel alone, far away from her home and all her friends and family
- Her sister is out of town the day Marion leaves, so she has no idea she left
- There is no one at the motel except for Marion and the owner, Norman Bates, and his mother
- No one knew she left or where she went to
- Norman's mother is mentally ill, which worries Marion
- Marion takes a shower in her motel room, during this scene she is attacked and murdered
- Marion left her town without a trace or contacting anyone, making her isolated

Get Out (2017)

- Chris goes to visit his girlfriend, Rose's, family, every family member is white and the ones that are African American are hypnotized, they are tricked into obeying every order of the "owners"
- The servants of Rose's parents are black, hypnotized to obey every order
- The family hosts a get-together and everyone that comes over analyses Chris as if they are seeing if he will make a good servant
- Chris is mentally and emotionally isolated because he is completely oblivious to what is going on
- He is talking to Rose while the others are having a silent auction for who will get Chris once he is hypnotized
- One of the servants repeatedly unplugs Chris' phone to cut him off from making contact with anyone and keep him from getting out
- He finds out Rose dates black men and brings them back to her family for them to hypnotize, this makes it even harder for him to escape because he now knows the entire family is against him and he has no one to help him