Good girls do it too! : a look at the representation of women who kill in made-for-TV movies

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Abstract

The following thesis is an investigation into the representation of women who kill made-for-TV movies. I will look at the made-for-TV movie because it is a form that speaks primarily to a female audience and is almost always about issues that related to women. The question I will be asking is: How have made-for-TV movies formulated the term through which feminine identity is represented? Particularly as the made-for-TV movie relates to women who have stepped outside the bounds of prescribed notions of femininity and committed a violent act? As my case studies I will analyze the movies made about Betty Broderick and Aileen Wuornos respectively. Using the made-for-TV movie, I will identify how the form attempts to provide images of a normative femininity while at the same time allows for a progressive position to enter the text.

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These women, whose inner goodness negates their damaged exterior, are able to sniff out the inner benevolence of the men around them. Charlie Chaplin’s 1931 masterpiece “City Lights” introduces Virginia Cherrill as “A Blind Girl” who falls for Chaplin’s Little Tramp who she believes is a kind and wealthy benefactor. Both of these movies require the woman to use their disability as a means of survival. The ableism of their villains is exposed, but the women are still forced to endure all manner of horrors because they realize their disability is an advantage. Advertisement. Blindness is just one of the go-to invisible disabilities for women because they can “pass” for able-bodied. Female stars can play these characters with no prosthetics and little training. Women who lead in popular culture have almost always been portrayed as being aggressive douchebags with no heart. Movies and television shows promote this bogus idea that the only way to basically tame a shrewish lady boss is to throw a man into her life because love solves all the world’s problems. One of my closest art friends is a slim black girl with a boy cut who struggled to find a female representation of herself in pop culture until Lupita Nyong’o showed up and changed the game. They don’t even look alike necessarily, but Nyong’o bridged a gap that was present in my friends’ life. She now offers a mirror image that wasn’t there before, and having that person to look to for self-image has really impacted the way my friend feels about her hair, her body, her color, her being. Four amazing women interpret to another four amazing women, that show in the screen that toughness mixed with softness that most of the members of the so called weak sex have. I think women are very good represented for these experimented actresses that give to their roles what they need and the audience expect, credibility. Madeleine Stowe, always dignified, plays Cody Zamora in an amazing way but never diminish her fellows because they shine on their own. Some prostitutes get blamed for killing a man in self defence, and the town wants to string em up. So the girls escape and go on a rampage. I don’t know what happens next, because the opening 30 minutes was so bad that i switched off my video and watched the news instead (Thats REALLY bad!!!).