

According to the statistics reported by the Suicide Awareness Voices of Education foundation, every twelve minutes an individual dies by suicide in America ("General Statistics USA" 1). The prevalence of suicide and mental illness in the modern world proves to be at an all time high, especially for the United States in which it is the tenth leading cause of death. These numbers have been on a steady incline since the 1990s, from which suicides in America have increased 33% (Tavernise 1). This essay will investigate the dangers of sensationalism of trauma, particularly trauma that suicide survivors endure, with the examination of Jeffrey Eugenides's novel *The Virgin Suicides* and Sofia Coppola's film adaptation. In both examples, the female body is overtly sexualized, which portrays suicide as a romantic death. In literary and cinematic traditions, the romantic nature of female suicides has been used as a trope to represent an act of agency and empowerment during which the female chooses death over conforming to societal injustices.