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Why so many of the protagonists in horror films are mothers

为什么恐怖电影主角多是母亲

protagonist/prə'tægənɪst/: n. (故事或戏剧中的) 主角；拥护者

例句：In life, everyone is the protagonist of their own story.

词根词缀：pro- (赞成)

反义词：antagonist (n. 对立者)

horror: n. 恐怖；恐怖的

词性拓展：horrible /'hɒrɪb(ə)/: adj. 恐怖的

Horror **flicks**, for all their **sensationalist** tendencies, have long **interrogated** expectations of motherhood. Pregnancy is shown not as a blessed state but as a dangerous, **gory trauma**. Childbirth is frightening, and the resulting **offspring** often even more so. The **assumption** that women ought to become sweet, caring homemakers has been

undermined by **casting** them as **villains**.

恐怖片，尽管有其耸人听闻的倾向，长期以来却不断拷问着人们对于做母亲的憧憬。在恐怖片里，怀孕并不是一种幸福的状态，而是一种危险的、血淋淋的创伤。分娩令人恐惧，由此诞生的后代往往更加可怕。（恐怖片）将女性塑造成反派，这弱化了女性本应是甜美、体贴的家庭主妇的世俗之见。

flick/flɪk/: n. 电影

for all: 尽管

例句：For all her qualifications, she's still useless at the job.

sensationalist/sen'seɪʃənəlɪst/: adj. 耸人听闻的;n.追求轰动效应者

搭配短语：a sensationalist headline

相关词汇：sensation: n.感觉；察觉；轰动；引起轰动的人

搭配短语：a sensation of falling：坠落感

搭配短语：to cause/create a sensation 引起轰动

搭配短语：loss of sensation in the left arm: 左臂失去知觉

相关词汇：sensational: adj.引起轰动的；耸人听闻的

interrogate/ɪn'terəgeɪt/: v. 盘问，质询

blessed state: 幸福的状态

gory/'ɡɔ:ri/: adj. 血淋淋的，血腥暴力的

搭配短语：a gory film

trauma/'traʊmə/: n. 精神创伤;痛苦打击

搭配短语：childhood trauma

搭配短语：the trauma of marriage breakdown

offspring/'ɔ:fspɪŋ/: n. 后代，子女

例句：My sister will come over on Saturday with her offspring.

assumption/ə'sʌmpʃn/: n. 臆断，假定

词性拓展：assume (v. 臆断，假定)

assume 例句：I assumed that they knew each other because they went to the same school.

ought to: 应该

undermine/ˌʌndər'maɪn/: v. 损害；削弱

词根词缀：under- (次，亚，低于)

例句：Criticism undermines people's confidence. 批评破坏了人们的信心。

cast (sb.) as: 把（某人）塑造成

例句：They cast me as Romeo. 他们把我当作罗密欧。

villain /'vɪlən/: n. (影片或剧中的) 反派

In recent years film-makers have returned to these ideas and put several mothers at the

centre of stories.

近年来，电影制作人们又重新开始表达这些看法，将几位母亲设置为故事的中心人物。

The characters are often **ambivalent** about their responsibilities and the expectations placed on them. Both “The Babadook” (2014) and “Hereditary” (2018) include scenes in which the mother says the unsayable: they wish their children were dead, or had not been born.

这些角色们通常对她们所肩负的责任及被赋予的期许感到矛盾。《鬼书》（2014）和《遗传厄运》（2018）中都出现了母亲说不该讲的心里话的场景：她们希望自己的孩子死掉，或者压根没出生。

ambivalent/æm'bi:vələnt/: adj. (心情) 矛盾的，含糊不定的

搭配短语：an ambivalent attitude to exercise

相关词汇：ambiguous：adj. 有歧义的；不明确的

Other films have cast women as **formidable** heroes. Evelyn (Emily Blunt), the **survivalist** mother in “A Quiet Place” (2018), helps to protect her family against monsters that hunt using sound. She gives birth **noiselessly** and without help, and takes charge when her husband dies.

另外一些电影将女性塑造成令人敬畏的英雄。《寂静之地》(2018)中的伊芙琳（艾米莉·布朗特饰）是一位生存主义母亲，她协助保护自己的家人摆脱一群靠听声音捕猎的怪物们的攻击。她在毫无帮助的情况下噤声分娩，并在丈夫被杀死后承担起保护家人的责任。

formidable/fər'mɪdəbl/: adj. 令人敬畏的，可怕的

英文释义：causing you to have fear or respect for something or someone because that thing or person is large, powerful, or difficult

例句：Mrs. Clinton is a formidable opponent.

搭配短语：a formidable challenge

survivalist/sər'vaɪvəlɪst/: n. 生存主义者

take charge: 承担责任

英文释义：to accept responsibility for something and have control over it

例句：He is more confident now, more willing to take charge.

Horror is most **unsettling** when it invites audiences to imagine danger in safe places, particularly the home, and so mothers make ideal protagonists. At the same time, these

figures allow film-makers to undermine assumptions that women are **vulnerable** (especially when pregnant), weak and fearful, as well as the idea that motherhood is always a **rewarding** experience. This makes for complex and **nuanced** characters.

当观众被引导着去想象发生在安全地点，特别是发生在家里的危险时，恐怖片是最吓人的，而这时母亲们则成为绝佳的主角之选。与此同时，通过这些人物形象，电影制作人得以弱化（人们惯常）对女性的臆测和对做母亲的看法：女性是脆弱的（尤其当怀孕时）、无力的且恐惧的；生儿育女总是一个意义非凡的经历。一个个复杂而微妙的荧幕角色也由此诞生了。

unsettling /ʌn'setlɪŋ/: adj. 令人不安的，使人担忧的

英文释义：making you feel anxious and worried

vulnerable: adj. 脆弱的

相关词汇：vulnerability: n. 易遭攻击；易受伤害

figure /'fɪɡjər/: n. 人物

rewarding: adj. 有利的

相关词汇：reward: n. 报偿；回报

nuanced /'nu:ɪnst/: adj. (外表、意义、声音等上) 有细微差别的

词性拓展：nuance (n. 外表、意义、声音等的细微差别)

nuance 例句：Some nuances are lost in translation.

原文：

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— [Economist: Why so many of the protagonists in horror films are mothers](#)