

## Desk research

Name: Salt

Horror subgenre: supernatural

Length: 2:00

Location	Appearance/characters	Tools	Miscellaneous
<b>Creepy house</b> A small, cluttered two-storied (as shown) house – gives the sense that characters are confined and possibly not well off. The bed is small and cheap-looking, and there is not much light (although this also conforms to the conventions of the horror genre).	<b>Woman and (girl) child</b> Wearing plain, simple clothes. The girl is wearing a mask for (assumed) oxygen/medicine delivery, as she is sick. Both characters are female, and this is used to highlight their submissiveness and helplessness in the face of the male demon that chases them.	<b>Oxygen mask, medicine pills</b> Shows the girl is sick and heavily reliant on medicine to live. <b>Crucifixes</b> Mythological significance intrinsic to the style of many horror films. <b>Old car, messy house</b> Creates a sense of hurriedness (house) and economic status (poor).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm colours → cool palette</li><li>• Canted angles</li><li>• Quick and deliberate motion from camera</li><li>• Very immersive, non-diegetic sound</li><li>• Supernatural foey</li></ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What is the monster? What happens when mother and daughter are cornered in the car?	Mostly between the monster and the mother. The girl is a passenger.	<b>Equilibrium:</b> Girl is safe, but unwell  <b>Disequilibrium:</b> Salt is the only thing that keeps them safe from a monster A ghostlike character starts chasing the mother  <b>New equilibrium:</b> Mother runs away, tries to get away from monster with child. Sense of an ending, because the rain washes away the protective salt

Name: The Moonlight Man

Horror subgenre: supernatural

Length: 2:42

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On the street at night</li><li>• Closeups</li><li>• Low key lighting</li><li>• Dark, cold palette</li><li>• Backlit, silhouettes – doesn't show the monster until the end</li><li>• Man → monster</li><li>• Woman → victim</li><li>• Ends on a cliff-hanger, allows for audience to anticipate what comes next</li></ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What happens to the woman? Where does the monster take her? Who is the monster?	Between the woman (victim) and monster (victimizer).	<b>Equilibrium:</b> walking down a street at night, nervous as usual (representation – the woman is nervous) <b>Disequilibrium:</b> the monster (showing up, scaring the woman) <b>New equilibrium:</b> the woman is kidnapped

→ Note: *Unities* by Aristotle

- ONE location
- NO time shifts
- ONE key event

Name: Freakshow

Horror subgenre: psychological

Length: 6:46

Note: IB film

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closeups</li><li>• Low key lighting</li><li>• Glitches</li><li>• Match cuts (quick)</li><li>• Jump cuts</li></ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What is happening to the boy? What is he thinking? Which timeline are we in?	A boy and his alter ego? Or his girlfriend (breaking up)?	<b>Equilibrium:</b> having dinner with date <b>Disequilibrium:</b> breakup, girlfriend commits suicide, going insane? <b>New equilibrium:</b> boy commits suicide too, experiences 'death'

Name: 2AM: The Smiling Man

Horror subgenre: supernatural? Ghost/zombie

Length: 4:08

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One-point lighting</li><li>• Dark palette</li><li>• Handheld shots + steady</li><li>• Diegetic sounds</li><li>• Minimal nondiegetic</li><li>• Closeups</li><li>• Man is the victim</li></ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
Who is following the man? What happens to him once he is caught? Why is he being followed?	Between man and stalker.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Walking (home?) at night</li><li>2. Creepy man emerges, follows, chases</li><li>3. Creepy man catches up – ends on cliff-hanger</li></ol>

Name: Bedfellows

Horror subgenre: natural horror

Length: 2:31

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very cool palette / hue</li><li>• Diegetic sound only (except near end)</li><li>• Match cuts</li><li>• Overhead lighting (+ two-point)</li><li>• Woman is victim</li></ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
Who is in the bed with the woman?	Not clearly shown until the end, where is it between the woman and monster.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sleeping with husband</li><li>2. Phone from husband</li><li>3. Who is in the bed with her? Monster jumps out at her – does she die?</li></ol>

Name: Ouroboros

Horror subgenre: supernatural, possession

Length: 4:18

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Match cuts</li><li>• Jump cuts</li></ul>

- Diegetic sound
- Nondiegetic score
- Smooth movements
- Some handheld shots
- Blood, creakiness, night-time (iconography)
- Swearing
- Man is victim – becomes zombie

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
Who took the man away? What happened to him?	Not entirely clear – something takes him away, but all we hear is noise from the creature.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sleeping (not even shown, implied)</li> <li>2. Knocking on door, checks, is locked out</li> <li>3. Dies? Becomes zombie? His doppelganger answers the door from inside!</li> </ol>

Name: Laptop

Horror subgenre: natural, found footage

Length: 3:35

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green hue → blue</li> <li>• Diegetic sound</li> <li>• Nondiegetic sound comes in</li> <li>• 1 angle, no movements, no cuts</li> <li>• Teenage girl is victim</li> <li>• Diegetic lighting</li> </ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What is causing strange things to happen? What happens to the girl?	Only shown near end, when girl is kidnapped by a man in a mask.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns on laptop, working</li> <li>2. Strange things happen (lights go off, things fall, noise)</li> <li>3. Man in a mask shows up, makes girl unconscious, ties her up</li> </ol>

Name: Larry

Horror subgenre: supernatural

Length: 5:20

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Night-time, well-lit inside guard's post</li> <li>• One person (man, victim)</li> <li>• ND + D sound</li> <li>• Simple, layered score</li> <li>• High angles</li> <li>• Supernatural Foley</li> <li>• Smooth movements</li> <li>• Match cuts</li> </ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
Who is the monster? What happens to the man?	Between guard (man) and a strange monster	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Night-time guard on duty</li> <li>2. Finds an iPad, reads a story describing a monster, then the monster shows up everywhere + makes lights flicker</li> <li>3. Monster comes out from iPad.</li> </ol>

Name: Whisper

Horror subgenre: supernatural, natural

Length: 2:00

Notes
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- Blue, dark, cold palette
- Use of Alexa (automated, monotone voice)
- ND + D sound + creepy Foley
- Doors open, whisper noises

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What is happening? Who is the monster? What happens to the girl?	Between teenage girl and invisible monster using Alexa to talk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Girl is sleeping</li> <li>2. Alexa wakes up, starts delivering messages. Doors creek open.</li> <li>3. Hands grab hold of the girl.</li> </ol>

Name: One Please

Horror subgenre: supernatural, graphic

Length: 5:41

Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright, daytime</li> <li>• Closeups</li> <li>• Young girl</li> <li>• Very little dialogue</li> <li>• Blood, knife (iconography)</li> </ul>

Enigma	Binary opposition	Narrative
What does the girl want? Who is the ice-cream man?	Not clear – more of a gruesome tale of a girl asking for a woman's fingers so she can go 'buy' and ice cream.	<p>Interesting because of the <i>lack</i> of a concrete narrative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Girl skipping on the road. Ice cream truck drives up</li> <li>2. Goes to woman, asks her for her finger. Woman finally gives in</li> <li>3. Gives finger to ice-cream man and gets ice cream in return</li> </ol>

### Additional notes

#### More horror films I watched:

- Lights Out
- Alexia
- The Black Hole
- Conscience
- Peek A Boo
- I Heard It Too
- Escargore
- La Boca Del León
- Abandoned
- Got'cha
- Ringer
- The Scarecrow's Stare
- Hidden
- Quartier de la Madeleine
- The Tenth Time

#### Filmmaking conventions I noticed:

- Characters given some depth
- Jump scares used sparingly
- Don't show everything – use sounds instead
- Don't make it too dark when filming – it'll become too noisy. Instead colour grade in post
- Twinkle box music used very often
- Creaky doors

- Rain, thunder and lightning
- Slow motion at a high frame rate
- Blood

**Analysis of these films - Boscombe's theory of iconography:**

- Locations:
  - Dark
  - Old
  - Isolated
  - Dilapidated
- Characters:
  - Young girls
  - Innocent, faceless
  - Scared: focus on eyes
  - Monsters and beasts
- Tools:
  - **Weapons** such as knives, chainsaws, claws, saws, other sharp objects
  - **Gore** like blood, guts, body parts, bloodshot eyes
  - **Clothing** such as masks, facial concealment, white dresses
- Other/miscellaneous:
  - Low key hard lighting
  - Dark palette
  - Red and black
  - Bold/scribble/serif fonts
  - Shadows and drips