

HORROR MOVIES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE. WHERE ONCE THEY DREW ON PRIMORDIAL FEARS ABOUT DEATH, DARKNESS AND THE UNKNOWN TO HAIR-RAISING EFFECT, 21ST-CENTURY MOVIES HAVE UPDATED THEIR TACTICS TO EQUALLY SCARY EFFECT.

"HORROR IS ALL ABOUT MONSTERS, AND THOSE MONSTERS ARE OFTEN THE EMBODIMENT OF SOCIAL ANXIETY," SAID JASON WALLIN, A MEDIA AND CULTURE EXPERT IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S FACULTY OF EDUCATION.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SCARE TACTICS SO MUCH AS THE UNCONSCIOUS FEARS. HORROR IS A SPECULATION ON A POTENTIAL FUTURE AND IT TRIES TO ELEVATE THOSE ANXIETIES TO CONSCIOUS THOUGHT."

HE SAID CONTEMPORARY HORROR MOVIES TRANSFORM HIGHLY RELEVANT CONCERNS ABOUT INVASIVE AND ISOLATING TECHNOLOGY, THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE, INCURABLE DISEASES AND FEAR OF DIFFERENCE INTO THE STUFF OF NEW NIGHTMARES.

AND THOUGH MOST PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THE STREETS WILL BE OVERTAKEN BY THE UNDEAD WITH AN APPETITE FOR HUMAN FLESH, THE HORROR GENRE FORCES BOTH CHARACTERS AND VIEWERS TO CONFRONT THEIR FEARS, WHICH IN THE 21ST CENTURY OFTEN REVOLVE AROUND THE FRAGILITY OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

"THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE ABOUT HORROR FILMS--THEY PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER ALL REFERENCE POINTS. PEOPLE HAVE TO ACTUALLY START THINKING FOR THEMSELVES SINCE THERE'S NO FRAMEWORK TO FALL BACK ON TO MAKE SENSE OF THINGS," SAID WALLIN. HOW CHARACTERS RESOLVE THEIR SITUATIONS ALSO REFLECTS THE WAY SOCIETY THINKS ABOUT THESE ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE GENRE.

"INSTEAD OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT BODIES, GENDER, RACE OR HOW OTHER HUMANS RELATE TO NON-HUMANS, WE HAVE THIS REALLY STARK DIVISION BETWEEN HUMANS AND OTHERS. HORROR TRIES TO PLAY AT THE INTERSECTION OF THOSE FORCES, BUT IT ALSO TRIES TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE RECONCILE HUMANITY AND THE UNCANNY."

IT HAS LARGE HORNS  
AND A BIG STRONG  
BODY. IT WALKS ON  
TWO LEGS AND IS  
VERY DANGEROUS!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN  
AND SCALY MOVING  
HAIR. IT'S EYES ARE  
DANGEROUS SO DON'T  
LOOK AT IT!

IT'S COVERED IN FUR  
AND HAS SEVERAL  
HEADS. IT USES  
LARGE CLAWS AND  
FANGS TO ATTACK!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN  
AND MANY HEADS.  
ONE OF THE HEADS  
WILL LIVE FOREVER!

IT HAS SOFT SKIN  
AND LARGE WINGS.  
IT CAN TALK AND IS  
DANGEROUS TO MEN.

IT IS VERY HUNGRY  
AND LOOKS LIKE US.  
IT CAN RUN VERY  
FAST!

IT IS COVERED IN  
FUR AND HAS LARGE  
FANGS. IT IS MOST  
DANGEROUS AT  
NIGHT!

IT HAS FANGS AND IS  
VERY STRONG. IT  
LOOKS LIKE US AND  
HATES SUNLIGHT!

IT LIVES IN THE SEA  
AND HAS LARGE  
TENACLES. IT CAN  
DESTROY MANY  
SHIPS!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN  
AND LARGE WINGS.  
IT CAN BREATHE  
FIRE AND IS VERY  
INTELLIGENT!

IT HAS LARGE HORNS  
AND IS VERY  
HUNGRY AND  
SMELLY. IT CAN  
WALK LIKE A MAN!

IT HAS NO SKIN AND  
SMELLY BREATH. IT  
HATES FRESH WATER  
IS HAPPY IN WINTER!

IT HAS LARGE  
CLAWS AND WINGS  
AND IS COVERED IN  
FUR. IT'S VERY  
STRONG AND VERY  
SMART!

IT WEARS CLOTHES  
BUT CANNOT SPEAK.  
IT GOES OUT AT  
NIGHT BUT CANNOT  
WALK!

IT HAS BRIGHT  
FEATHERS AND LIVES  
FOREVER. IT LOVES  
FIRE!

IT HAS MANY TAILS  
AND IS VERY SMART.  
IT CAN ALSO CHANGE  
SHAPE!

IT IS SMALL AND  
HAS WINGS. THEY  
ARE DANGEROUS  
AND NOT TO BE  
TRUSTED!

IT HAS LARGE WINGS  
WITH FEATHERS  
AND LOOKS LIKE US.  
IT CAN FLY AND IS  
VERY STRONG!

IT HAS HORNS AND  
LARGE WINGS. IT IS  
DANGEROUS AND  
EVIL!

IT CAN'T BE  
TOUCHED BUT CAN  
MOVE EVERYWHERE.  
THEY LIKE TO STAY  
IN ONE PLACE!

THE BOTTOM HAS  
SCALES AND A TAIL.  
IT IS BEAUTIFUL BUT  
DANGEROUS!

IT HAS WHITE FUR,  
FOUR HOOVES AND A  
SINGLE HORN. IT'S  
NOT VERY  
DANGEROUS!

IT HAS A SPINY TAIL,  
LARGE CLAWS AND  
BIG FANGS. IT'S SKIN  
IS SCALY AND FURRY!

IT IS VERY BIG, VERY  
STRONG AND VERY  
UGLY. THE SKIN IS  
COLOURED AND IT'S  
HUNGRY AND  
DANGEROUS!