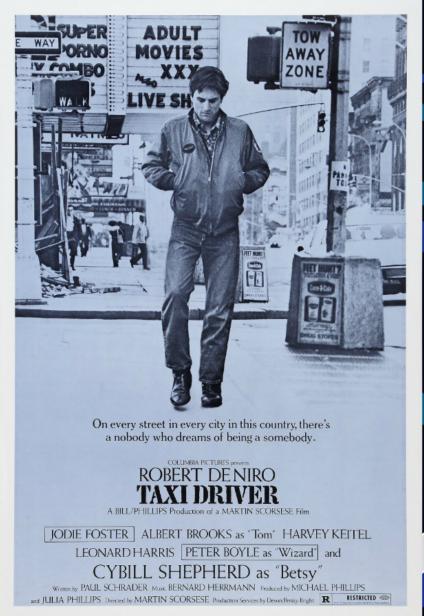
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Basic information

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Taxi Driver is a 1976 film directed by Martin Scorsese and written by Paul Schrader.

It is categorized as a psychological thriller, albeit elements from the film are taken from action thrillers and Westerns.

Plot synopsis

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Travis Bickle (Robert De Niro) is a Vietnam veteran who's struggling to fit back into normal life. Due to an implied case of PTSD, which manifests itself in the form of insomnia and a heightened sense of morality, Travis seems to have no social skills.

Plot synopsis (con't) Thecasesolutions.com

However, Travis gets a chance at redemption when he manages to woo campaign manager Betsy (Cybil Shepard). However, due to his lack of social norms, Betsy leaves him, bringing Travis into an obsessive state of denial. It is here that he becomes obsessed with the concept of vigilantism.

Through what means does the film cue reactions on the part of viewers?

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The film is structured like both a film noir and a Western. It encourages these reactions by offering archetypes, or standard characters, while subverting and deconstructing them.

More on the film's means

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The film uses color, lighting, cinematographic methods, acting, music, costuming, and dialogue in order to help audiences understand the central motifs of the film.

What are the motifs of the film?

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- 1. Loneliness
- 2. Desperation in response to loneliness
- 3. Aimlessness
- 4. Deconstructing Old Hollywood's obsession with vigilantism.
- 5. Self-destruction of an individual through obsession.