

Title: That's What She Said (Analysis on the Cinematic Representation of Women's Repression)
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After viewing three women-centered films, *Black Swan*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *Tesis*, I detected a similar trend in the characteristics of each film's female protagonists that are applicable to the psychological barriers that women in society face. Through the lens of Simone de Beauvoir, Carl Jung, and Karen Horney, the purpose of my literary analysis is to dissect three female characters, Nina, Angela, and Clarice, who have each developed unconscious dark sides (sexual fantasies, sadistic attraction, or shameful motives) and examine how their inability to recognize hidden desires connects with real female experiences. Nina, a ballerina pressured into the standards of perfection, faces internal sexual wrestling that de Beauvoir explains is a result of forced environmental expectations. Another character, Angela, criticizes society's twisted attraction towards violent images; due to fear of judgment, she is unable to recognize her sadomasochistic instincts, which Jung refers to as her "shadow." Unlike the others, Clarice, who is comparable to women growing up in unstable conditions, is haunted by a past traumatic experience such that she utilizes the defense mechanism Horney terms as "inhibition" to hide her fear of being completely helpless. There is a certain depth in the concepts conveyed in these three films that should be more present and brought to attention in modern cinema's portrayal of women. These are all individuals with their own unique complexity and are more than their surface-level appearances. It is time for women to recognize their unconscious motives and also be viewed as human.

Works Cited

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