

Book Review

Suicide Movies: Social patterns 1900 to 2009.

By Stack S., Bowman B. Published by Hogrefe, Gottingen, Germany. 2012. 298 pp.

In *Suicide Movies: Social patterns 1900–2009*, Steven Stack and Barbara Bowman have created an encyclopedic analysis of suicide in films. Unlike typical texts on cinema in psychiatry, which may be focused more on the particular individual themes or from an entertainment or teaching perspective, this book is a comprehensive academic endeavor. The authors clearly have a passion and interest for both cinema and the social factors associated with suicide. The book is based on a very thoughtful analysis of an exhaustive listing of US-produced films using the best possible data sources. They then integrate their cinematic suicide analyses with suicide risk factor research data to provide social contexts.

This is not light reading. For the reader interested in suicide or a compendium on suicide in film, this is an interesting text.

It is remarkably well referenced, and providing context according to actual research makes the book unique. It is a very nice resource/compendium of suicide research from multiple perspectives, and the integration of social themes using characters from the screen adds interest and an emotional map.

For other readers, the book is formatted well and utilizes screen captures in an evocative manner. For many readers, I expect that the images may provoke many 'I forgot about that' moments. For the suicide researcher or for those with a passion for film, the book is a very nice, and remarkably thorough, resource.

Timothy W. Lineberry
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA
E-mail: lineberry.timothy@mayo.edu