Title: Joker: A Psychological Analysis
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The 2019 movie *Joker* is an in-depth psychological study of the infamous villain from the Batman series of movies and comic books. The viewer is encouraged to look at the motivations of a character who has previously been unlikable and in this understanding, he becomes likeable and empathized with. This qualitative study used the DSM-V in conjunction with the viewing of the movie to theorize which illness(es) the well-known serial killer character may be suffering from.

Several mental illnesses were considered, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and the popularly-theorized antisocial personality disorder. Joker is unlikely to be suffering from antisocial personality disorder because he shows empathy for others and portrays a strong work ethic. Bipolar disorder is slightly likely based on his periods of elevated mood and activity, but not seen is inflated self-esteem or distractibility. Posttraumatic stress disorder at first seems likely, but must be ruled out, as some essential criteria are not met (e.g., flashbacks). Schizophrenia seems to be the most likely diagnosis. Delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thinking, and abnormal motor behavior are seen, and while Joker does not display diminished emotional expression, it is disordered and abnormal. We conclude that the character of Joker is suffering from schizophrenia and possible bipolar disorder.

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