

Movie: Children of the Corn (1984)



Isaac

Synopsis

Children of the Corn is a supernatural horror film based on a short story of the same name by Stephen King. Set in the town of Gatlin, the film tells the story of Burt and Vicky, who unwittingly uncover the sinister secret of the fictional rural town. In the town's dissident history, the people of Gatlin turned to prayer in an attempt to ensure a successful corn harvest. What resulted was the conjuring of a strange, vengeful presence called "He Who Walks Behind the Rows." The opening of the film is narrated by Job, 3 years in the past, and depicts a mass murder in a dinette and throughout Gatlin, Nebraska. "The harbinger" at a gas station (Cabin in the Woods, 2012) warns Burt and Vicky to take the fork in the road towards Hemingford. Despite following the road signs, the 2 "outlanders" end up in Gatlin for the ultimate battle with "He Who Walks Behind the Rows."

How it relates to the field of psychiatry

In an early scene, Burt makes a birthday wish to live happily ever after. His wish underscores that he and Vicky represent different aspects of Wendy Darling, the mother archetype and protagonist in J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* (1902). One of *Peter Pan*'s main themes is how duty and responsibility motivate human behavior. The eponymous Peter Pan goes to great lengths to avoid all adult responsibility. For example, he refuses to play father (opposite to Wendy's mother role) to the Lost Boys. Peter's longing to "never grow up" is a sublimation of the author who idolized children. J M Barrie also lost his 14-year-old brother in an accident. Sublimation is an unconscious process of the ego (defense mechanism) that allows for the expression of a "forbidden" impulse. Barrie befriended Sylvia Davies in London's Kensington Park, and was enamored with her sons; George, John, and Peter. He would meet his companions daily and make up stories featuring talking birds, fairies, and pirates walking the plank.

Beyond a product of sublimation, Peter Pan also demonstrates characteristics of Antisocial Personality Disorder versus Conduct Disorder (because we don't know his true age) as evidenced by his disregard for parents and authority. Peter's character is paralleled by Isaac

Chroner, the child who planned the mass murder of all the grown-ups in Gatlin. The Lost Boys then are represented by the children of the corn (see table below).

In the final scene, Burt and Vicky head towards Hemingford Home with Job and Sarah (the twins, below), similar to Wendy Darling returning to England with the Lost Boys.

Key words: Children of the Corn, Stephen King, He Who Walks Behind the Rows, mass murder, harbinger, Joss Whedon, Cabin in the Woods, Wendy Darling, Carl Jung, archetype, Antisocial Personality Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Peter Pan, J. M. Barrie, Wendy Darling

Parallels Between The Lost Boys in Peter Pan and the Children of the Corn			
Lost Boys	Description from Peter Pan	Children of the Corn	If Children of the Corn ended like Peter Pan...
Tootles	Described as the most unfortunate and humblest of the band because "the big things" and adventures happen while "he has stepped round the corner." He shoots Wendy with a bow and arrow after Tinker Bell tells them Wendy is a bird that Peter wants killed.	Similar to how Tootles takes Smee's place as boatswain when Peter takes possession of The Jolly Roger, Malachai Boardman takes Isaac's place as leader.	At the end of the story ("He wants you too, Malachai"), Malachai would return to London with Wendy (Vicky) and will eventually grow up to become a judge.
Slightly	Described as the most conceited of the boys because he believes that he, unlike the others, remembers what life was like before he was "lost." However, most of his "memories" are based on misunderstandings. Slightly is a poor make-believer with a penchant for music.	Isaac Chroner is also a poor make-believer, and meets his demise when Malachai convinces the other children that Isaac "has lost favor with Him...they are tired of your talk." Slightly cuts whistles and flutes from the branches of trees similar to Isaac crafting crucifixes from ears of corn.	Unknown
Nibs	Described as happy and debonair, possibly the bravest Lost Boy.	Richard 'Amos' Deigan is the only "child" who we see offer himself the first day of his 19 th year.	Amos will grow up to work in an office.
Curly	Because he always gets into pickles, Curly is called "Pickle." He isn't very smart but he's very loveable and has a kind heart.	Joseph also finds himself in a pickle when Malachai catches him trying to escape.	Joseph would have grown up to work in an office if Malachai didn't sacrifice him in the beginning of the film.
The Twins	First and Second Twin know little about themselves as they are not allowed to because Peter Pan does not know what Twins are (no Lost Boy is allowed to know anything that Peter doesn't).	Job & Sarah are the only children not in the cornfield when Isaac prophesizes the fate of the townspeople. They are therefore enigmas to the children of the corn.	Job and Sarah will grow up to work in an office.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Boys_(Peter_Pan)			

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