

Movie: Sinister (2012)

Synopsis: *Sinister* is a 2012 supernatural horror film chronicling the existential crisis of Ellison Oswalt, a fictional crime author who is trying to resurrect his fledgling career. Following an opening scene that shows an unnamed family being hanged from a tree, we meet the Oswalts who are moving into their new Pennsylvania home. On moving day, they are met by the town sheriff, who after reprimanding his deputy for soliciting an autograph, tries to convince Ellison to load his boxes back onto the moving truck and leave. The sheriff's warning, a harbinger, serves as foreshadowing of the Oswalt's fate, as it is learned that the house they are moving into is the former Stevenson home; the scene of the horrific hanging.

It is revealed that the hanging is one in a series of grisly murders carried out by children possessed by Bagul, the "eater of children." Possessing a realm of his own and traveling into the material world via images of himself (<http://villains.wikia.com>), *Sinister's* boogie man is a pagan Babylonian deity who consumes the souls of children.

How it relates to the field of psychiatry

Sinister allows for review of the Dissociative Disorders if one disavows the theory proposed by Deputy So and So. Simply stated, a family (e.g. Martinez) sells their house, moves into a new home, and then meets their untimely demise (BBQ '79). The family that sold the victims their house (e.g. DeLuzio) will move into their new home, only to be killed by Bagul (Lawn Work '86). Upon extension of this pattern, we know that whoever sold their house to the Stevenson family should be the next in line to be murdered. However, [spoiler alert] the movie's climax reveals that the Oswalts are the next victims. The only way these two facts could be reconciled is if Ellison Oswalt was the seller of the Pennsylvania home (to the Stevenson family).

The pattern presented above is possible if Ellison Oswalt is afflicted with Dissociative Identity Disorder versus Amnesia with Dissociative Fugue. In either case, Ellison would suffer from amnesia, thus explaining how he could move his family into a house he previously owned.

Key Words: Sinister, Bagul, boogie man, sandman, Dissociative Amnesia, Dissociative Fugue

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