There Are Two Types of Nurses

Movie Critique for *The Good Nurse* by Mohamad Shaib

People are afraid of the general mood of hospitals for a myriad of reasons, yet the incident regarding a certain serial killer might've planted new fears in a lot of us. That story was documented and highlighted in a book and movie of the same name. *The Good Nurse* is a crime-drama movie that was released in October 2022. The semi-autobiographical motion picture tells a horrifying tale that is split between a serial killer and the money-worshipping healthcare system. Tobias Lindholm, supported by Protozoa Pictures, directed this chilling experience mainly for Netflix. The story follows a nurse, Amy Loughren (Jessica Chastain), as she slowly uncovers the truth behind a series of mysterious murders at the hospital, and Charles Cullen (Eddie Redmayne), the new-hire for the night shift, is the main suspect. *The Good Nurse* is worthevery minute of its runtime because of the excellent acting, pacing, and cinematography.

Typically, the acting in such inspired-by-a-true-story thrillers leaves much to be desired. However, the cast in *The Good Nurse* delivers a fantastic and note-worthy performance. Eddie Redmayne, who plays the movie's main antagonist, manages to capture the creepy and uneasy yet somehow unsuspicious aura of a serial killer. Additionally, the roles of detective Danny Baldwin and Tim Braun, played by Nnamdi Asomugha and Noah Emmerich respectively, accurately portray the justice-driven law enforcers seeking the truth. The facial expressions and different tones presented by these actors and actresses support the plot and truly immerse the audience in these characters' mental space, which is rare in films of similar themes like psychological horror.

Pacing is an important aspect of any movie, and especially thrillers, as it functions similarly to a fishing rod that baits and hooks the audience with exciting plot points throughout the movie. The pacing, in this case, determines the time interval between such events. Though slow-paced thrillers generally flunk in the eyes of the audience, *The Good Nurse* delivers its story in a way that seems to perfectly fit the purpose. The slow development of Cullen's character, and his initial friendly integration into Amy Loughren's life, serve as a sort of innocent foundation on which the "serial killer" character is built. Also, the interaction between the hospitals' legal teams and the detective duo is steady yet futile, which slowly but surely builds a sense of suspense and eeriness around the characters. On the other hand, the progressivespeed at which critical events take place, such as Amy's realization of her friend's murderous tendencies, kicks it up a notch and leaves the audience anxious whenever there's a camera cut.

Speaking of camera cuts, the cinematography in *The Good Nurse* plays an essential role in conveying the chilly mood and ambience for the movie. Generally, the clichéd close-up shots in movies of comparable nature work towards vilifying or exculpating certain characters. Contrarily, Jody Lee Lipes, the one behind the cinematography in this film, did a fantastic job ofaccompanying Cullen's unsuspecting smiles and behavior, which in turn further emphasizes the dichotomy between his friendly presentation and horrid reality. For example, in the scene whereLoughren comes back home, after becoming certain of the suspicions around Cullen, the expected camera cuts that would reveal the evil villain's presence are instead simple camera movements which betray no indication to the actuality of the situation. Such deliberate almost innocent view of Cullen intensifies the unsettling atmosphere around him. Ultimately, the cinematography in this movie is a significant factor that distinguishes it from the usual crime-drama flicks.

In conclusion, *The Good Nurse* is a fantastic telling of a true story that manages to grip audiences with the help if its superb acting, dynamic pacing, and refreshing cinematography. Moreover, its indirect focus on the inhumane nature of the healthcare system allows it to be relatable for people whether they've had a similar fatal encounter with a crazed nurse or not. Such a valuable addition to home cinema is deeply appreciated by hard-to-impress film critics, concerned citizens, and casual movie enjoyers all the same. Across multiple rating and reviewingplatforms, and with over 50,000 votes, *The Good Nurse* has achieved an average of 4 stars with almost exclusively positive comments. Ergo, I urge people to watch this movie at least once, with additional viewings providing a bit of retrospective creepiness. After all, Charles Cullen's innocent smiles only get infinitely more terrifying after the first time you watch it.