

Jill Miller

Lit Review 2

*Monster*

Right off the bat, I wish that we had gotten a little more backstory about Aileen's childhood and whatnot. I was able to do some research and found out what a rough time she had growing up, but it would have been relevant to show it in the movie. I think it's kind of weird that Selby didn't question anything, and the broken-down truck just sort of became irrelevant. I also think it's a little weird that they changed the name, because in real life Selby's name is Tyria and that information can be found quickly. Charlize Theron did an absolutely amazing job with this role.

I never knew the details of what happened with the men, but I did know that at least one of them tried to kill her and it set her off. The movie was much more graphic than I was expecting. I genuinely don't know how men think to do the things they do and I want to know how many women that man assaulted or killed that he just got away with. In all honesty, I probably would have had a comparable reaction if someone beat me, tied me up, and sexually assaulted me. He deserved what he had coming to him. How did we go so wrong as a society that men think it's ok to do that?

I wish that she had been able to turn her life around. She seemed like she was trying for her and Selby and I wonder how different her life could have been if she had been able to get a steady job. She literally had no resources. She went to so many places trying to get a job and get help and nobody helped her. Nobody should have to sell their body like that, especially starting at the age of 13. I've talked about this in chats before, but I hate that there's even still a market

for sex work. People forget that sex workers are people too, they aren't just disposable fuck toys, pardon my language.

She just had a complete psychotic break. Going through what she did, it's hard to blame her. Mental health care is not emphasized nearly enough in our society and she would have been so much better off if it was. She was clearly addicted to nicotine and alcohol and her life could have been so different if she got care and treatment for her addiction. I don't know if Selby was mentally ill too or if she was just so blinded by love or infatuation, but they both deserved so much better than the life they had. I genuinely think that she was just so traumatized by the experiences she had had with men that it influenced every interaction she had with them. The cycle of abuse is so evident in this case. Aileen was so abused and broken by her childhood and that came out in her crimes and the way she treated Selby. I had no idea that one of the men tried to help her. I really just think she needed mental health care instead of prison. I don't think she could control what she was doing. She seems to have been self-aware, she knew she needed help, she just didn't have the mental capacity to stop killing or go get help by herself.

This movie fits in really well with our discussion post this week and vigilante crimes. Her first murder was of a man who almost killed her and she acted in self-defense, but the rest of her murders seem to be acting in advance. Don't get me wrong, the men were all lousy for "keeping her in business" and taking advantage of the fact that she was so desperate for money, but I don't think any of the other ones except the first did anything to Lee specifically.

Our society is not well-established to help women in bad situations and Aileen Wuornos is a prime example of that. No 13-year-old should be out on the streets selling their body. How different could things have been for her and other girls like her, had she only been able to have a

roof over her head and go to school? Those men should never have been murdered because Aileen should never have been the way she was.