



Crime fiction is a genre that has stood the test of time and remains popular today, as it was when it first appeared over a century ago. The crime fiction genre maintained interest as it has grown and been altered as ~~the~~ time has elapsed. As Miller puts it, "the complexity of the genre depends on the complexity of the society." Crime Fiction has upheld those sentiments and have become more sophisticated as society has progressed. It is the reason why Crime fiction is still popular; it deals with the concerns that are relevant to its audience.

The texts Hound of the Baskervilles, The Big Sleep (TBS), Chinatown, The Real Inspector Hound (RIH) and Law's Order ^{demonstrate} ~~reflect~~ how the changes in society have shaped texts, which makes them popular.



The Hound of The Baskervilles by ~~the~~ Arthur Conan Doyle ~~was~~ ~~one of the~~ ~~papers~~ is a text from the Sherlock Holmes series. ~~The~~ The series was instantly popular in its time, which established the notoriety of the genre.

The book offered the audiences of the time an alternative to the Victorian romantic text types, like Jane Austen, a more intellectual ~~to~~ journey through the unravelling of mystery. Responders were able to ~~take~~ part in the investigative process through Watson, and then the deduction by Holmes. ~~The~~ Doyle's text introduced responders to a world that was ~~identifiable~~ as being their ^{own}, but contained ~~seedy~~ elements such as murder and greed that were ~~different~~ ^{alien}. The text took



audiences out of their comfort zone by showing the negatives of their society, ~~and~~ ^{which} made the text more interesting for them.

Howard Hawks in his film The Big Sleep (1948) also showed responders a world that was unlike their own. Hawks used the conventions of film noir to show the corruption that infesting their world. He paints a picture of ~~to~~ how post World War II has led society to be corrupt and how the American Dream has been shattered.

Marlowe is sent to investigate the identity of the person who is blackmailing the Sternwoods. During the process he unravels the intricate web of deceit and murder, which highlights how

society has fallen.

The plot is incredibly complex with a total of seven crimes being committed. ~~General~~ General Sternwood comments on how it is of "the same corrupt blood", showing how one crime cannot be singled out or separated. The driver's, Taylor's death is unsolved and the innocent Harry Smith is killed, which shows how individual life is meaningless. The context of the post war allows people to be expendable and so an individual is worth very little.

~~The~~ The IBS is a text that comments on the way society is living. The use of film noir ~~accentuates~~ ^{accentuates} the 'fallen world'. Responders are able to see a more realistic

version of the world; ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~and~~
Hollywood glamorisation of it.
TBS shows themes such as organised
crime, pornography, gambling
and murder, which demonstrates
the complexity of the time. ~~The~~ ^{the}
realistic portrayal ~~has~~ made it
popular and has ensured its
endurability. The film reflects
~~the film's significance~~
~~Reinforcing similar~~
~~that~~ the propagandies of the
time in ensuring women stay
in the home and allow men to
rule the world. The films
femme fatales are punished and
reduced at the end. Carmen is
sent off to an asylum and Vivian
loses her independence by telling
Marlowe he "can make anything



happen," which shows how he can only ~~the~~ function in society with his help. The upholding of values in the society, allowed the film, ~~and~~ hence the genre to remain popular.

The film China Town by Polanski ~~is~~ has similar sentiments to ~~the~~ TAS. Evelyn, the femme fatale, is punished in the end for her independence, which is marked by her death. It also reflects the destruction of the American dream in the sense that only corrupt ~~is~~ and deceitful men like Cross are able to achieve it. Through the deceit and political corruption displayed in the film, ~~and~~ responders are not able to see how society

is decaying. The realist's image of their society has allowed audiences to embrace the film and genre.

Tom Stoppard in his play The Real Inspector Hound shows his audience his ~~vision~~^{perception} of the world. ~~In the beginning~~
In his initial descriptions, Stoppard places a large mirror on stage, which reflects the audience. It symbolises how the events occurring on stage 'mirror' what is occurring in real life. In this way, he shows the absurd nature of life. The meaningless of the play's events show the meaninglessness of the audience's lives, which ~~is~~ echoes Stoppard's existentialism.

view of the world.

Stoppard ridicules the formulaic aspects of the crime fiction genre such as the isolated country setting, of such texts as Christie's Mouse-trap and P.D James' Skull Beneath the Skin with exaggerated lines from the characters like Mrs Drudge's comment "here cut off from the world" or Simon's "the treacherous swamps surround this strangely inaccessible house" Stoppard then suspends disbelief by stating that "there are ways to get in." The absurdity of the description hence mirrors the absurdity of life. The way in which the characters are stereotyped does the same. Mrs Drudge, typical maid in

Crime fiction is ~~bomboring~~ and is, ~~and~~ fittingly, a drudge.

Cynthia is a sophisticated aristocrat who comes off the tennis court in a cocktail dress. The absurdity of the characters again show the absurdity of life.

Stoppard also breaks ~~the~~ a main rule in crime fiction in that the dead do not stay dead. Simon returns from the grave, which makes the pursuit for the killer meaningless, which hence shows how life in general is meaningless and ~~the~~ how that there is no point in living.

Stoppard's text is popular as it makes audiences look deeper in themselves and question existentialist notions of whether

Life is pointless.

The Law & Order episode

A Dry Day shows the morality and relationships of two ~~police~~ ^{detectives}, Leonard & Ray, and how their morality guides their actions.

In the pursuit to catch the criminal they bribe a stripper and force a suspect to sign away her right for a longer ~~time~~ ^{and} ~~justifi~~ to get a conviction. The end justifies the means. They operate outside rules & regulations.

It is popular because it reflects the conscience ^{driver} ~~of~~ a citizen of the modern world. Audiences are able to relate ~~to~~ ^{it}.

The use of forensics to help ~~out~~ catch the killer appeals to modern audiences. ~~And~~



The use of DNA extraction in other texts like Joyce's Bone Collector (1997) ~~reflects~~ address the ~~desires~~ ^{desires} of modern audiences.

Crime fiction texts have had enduring popularity as they have constantly reflected the new and differing contexts in which they are set. As society has become more complex crime fiction texts have adapted. They have addressed the ~~desires~~ ^{desires} of audiences, be it technology, character portrayal or ~~is~~ resolution, which has made sure that the texts remain popular.