

heroine from any kind of pleasure. His actions towards her are also described as “coarse” and “vulgar”. The Marquis’ characteristics of a ‘Byronic hero’, however, could be attributed to his loneliness stemmed from the murder of previous wives, rendering him unable to ‘keep’ any wife long enough for company. When the heroine walks into the Marquis’ bedroom, she notices “the atrocious loneliness of that monster” though it could be argued that this is all through the actions and choices he consciously makes. Therefore, the Marquis is indeed “mad, bad and dangerous” all at once.

Overall, it can be said that-with the exception of the Marquis in The Bloody Chamber-none of the “antagonists” completely fit the description of the “mad, bad and dangerous” Byronic hero. It is worth noting that the majority of the antagonists are not really “villains” as such but rather “anti-heroes” therefore, ideas of the Gothic villain can vary.

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