

PART 3

➔ **HIS SADISM IS ALSO A PRODUCT OF HIS ENSLAVEMENT-**

Powerlessness brought about by his enslavement to external, social myths and constructions:

However the extent of the sadism shown by Patrick Bateman cannot simply be explained by his **extreme adherence to chauvinistic taglines**, but must also be seen as originating from a deep-seated sense of **powerlessness brought about by his enslavement to external, social myths and constructions**.

Not being a “real”, self-defining personality induces a sense of insecurity and powerlessness (“*my macabre joy sours and I’m weeping for myself, unable to find solace in any of this*” “*I was simply imitating reality... Something horrible was happening and yet I couldn’t figure out why*”) which can only be assuaged by exerting power on something weaker.

Indeed it is important to note that all of Bateman’s victims are in a weakened position (drunkards, beggars, women, elderly people, children).

➔Psychologist **Erich Fromm** states that the sadist “is sadistic because he feels impotent, unalive and powerless. He tries to compensate for this lack by having power over others, by transforming the worm he feels himself to be into a God”.

CONCLUSION:

○ **American Psycho is “a portrait of misogyny rather than misogynistic itself” (Mary Harron),**

➔ where the misogyny may be read as an inevitable **by-product**

➔ of a chauvinistic, image-based and consumerist society lived to its most extreme conclusions, where Patrick Bateman represents:

➔ the **monstrous embodiment of the ideal consumer:**

Buying and buying *into all that is externally advocated*. His enslavement to being entirely “fabricated” by his **external environment** leaves him feeling **frustrated and powerless**, leading him to take sadistic **pleasure in the utter destruction** of those over whom he is able to wield power.

➔ Depicts misogyny and sadism as inevitable by-products of a chauvinistic, image-based and consumerist society lived to its most extreme and fanatical conclusions.