Copycat

For my movie review project, I decided to choose the movie Copycat. The movie Copycat was directed by Jon Amiel and was produced in 1995. The writers of Copycat are Ann Biderman and David Madsen. Some of the key actors in the movie were Sigourney Weaver as Helen Hudson, Holly Hunter as M.J. Mohanhan, Dermot Mulroney as Ruben Goetz, Harry Connick, Jr. as Daryll Lee Cullum and Milliam McNamara as Peter Foley. I personally loved this movie. There was never a dull moment because of all the action, it was truly action packed. The story line went along great with the title of the book as well.

The plot of Copycat was actually very easy to follow. It started off with a lecture about criminal psychology at a university. The lecture was being given by Helen Hudson and in her lecture she listed a number of serial killers that were from the past. Later in the day she was attacked in the bathroom by Daryll Lee Cullum, he was later put in prison. Because of her attack, Helen develops sever agoraphobia which is an anxiety disorder. Three months later a series of murders start to occur near her home of San Francisco. Mohanhan and Ruben want Helen to help them with the cases because she is an expert in criminal psychology. As the murders continue the cops are dumb founded but Helen, Mohanhan and Ruben knew what was happening all along. The serial killer was copying all of the serial killers that Helen listed in her lecture in order. Ruben was killed in an attack so Mohanhan was left with Helen to figure it out themselves. They discover that the killer is Peter Foley. Helen is captured by Foley for one last attempt to kill her. Mohanhan realizes what is happening and goes back to the first spot that Helen
was attacked which was in the bathroom. Mohanhan shoots Foley but Foley is still alive and shoots Mohanhan. Mohanhan was thought to be dead by Foley and while the serial killer was down Helen made a break for the door. Foley got up and ran after Helen but out of no where Mohanhan shoots Foley right before he is about to kill Helen. At the end it is revealed that Daryll Lee Cullum was writing letters to serial killers of how to kill Helen from his prison cell.

Helen was once a very successful criminal psychologist. When she was attacked she developed the psychological trouble of agoraphobia. Agoraphobia is an anxiety disorder that causes panic attacks often caused by being in environments that are perceived as dangerous or uncomfortable. Many people do not wish to go outside of the comfort of their own home. Throughout the whole movie it was a constant battle with Helen and her psychological disorder.

A scene the depicted Helen’s agoraphobia very well was when the serial killer was in her house. Helen had rigged up her house with bolted doors and a state of the art security system. She has a constant fear of someone getting in to the house and killing her like she was almost killed before. When Mohanhan and Helen caught on to what the serial killer was doing they realized that Helen was next. Helen heard some noises in her home and started to get very nervous. She grabbed a knife but could not see the killer. She knew that her only way to get out alive would be to run out of her home, but for her it was not that easy. Helen was out the door when her agoraphobia kicked in. There was nothing at all in the hallway. Helen was half way down the hallway to safety but she had to turn back. Her disorder got the best of her and forced her to
almost give up her life. When she did go back in to her home the serial killer drugged her and almost killed her in the bathroom for a second time.

Overall the movie did very well with depicting that Helen had agoraphobia. Throughout the whole movie the director made sure to incorporate Helens disorder. One example was when Mohanhan and Ruben needed help with the case, Helen would never ever leave her house. The two investigators would always come to Helens house with all of the files because Helen was uncomfortable with leaving her house. Also the scene where Helen is trying to escape the killer that was in her house. According to the Meriam-Webster dictionary agoraphobia is defined as a fear of being in open or public places. When she was trying to get through the hallway it was a very open space with nothing in it. Her disorder got the best of her and Helen was forced to turn around.

Overall I really enjoyed reading and writhing about the movie, Copycat. It was action packed and I was always on my toes. Throughout the whole movie new surprises kept arising. Anyone who likes thriller movies...this would be a great pick for them. It really gets you to think about what was going on the whole time and it kept me guessing. Copycat is a great movie.