

## **Trigger Alert and Introduction**

### **Mother!**



Dear Colleagues,

**Trigger Alert:** Please be advised that certain portions of the film *Mother!* are emotionally disturbing, and sometimes contain realistic simulations of violence.

Enclosed with this announcement, you will find the manuscript of my paper *This is not our house: Species narcissism and relationality in psychoanalysis*. This paper is not directly about the film *Mother!* but it was inspired by a viewing of the film in 2017. The paper is offered as an adjunct to my presentation on March 18, and is not needed to follow the discussion of the film. Spoiler alert: the last part of the paper contains a synopsis of the film, so you may want to skip that part until after seeing the film.

In “On Narcissism: An Introduction,” Freud (1914) wrote the following:

“A strong egoism is a protection against falling ill, but in the last resort we must begin to love in order not to fall ill, and we are bound to fall ill if, in consequence of frustration, we are unable to love.” (Standard Edition, Volume 14, p. 85)

*Mother!* is constructed around an allegory based on the biblical *Book of Genesis* and other mythic symbolizations of the human story. Inside that narrative structure, however, another story about emotional development unfolds concerning the dilemma Freud describes.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 18!

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