

Are we born evil?

dress the portrayal of psychopathy in the film, but rather on postpartum depression and the consequences it can have on mother-child bonding.

Postpartum depression refers to depression that occurs to a mother after her child is born. The day Kevin is born, Eva does not hold him, she does not even look at him. During his first months, Kevin cries incessantly when he is held by his mother. The exhaustion and incapability to bond with or soothe her baby makes Eva increasingly frustrated and causes her to decrease her interactions with him. In return, Kevin internalizes his mother's rejection, which grows his hostility towards her. This vicious cycle could have been interrupted or even treated if it was recognized.

Eva's husband, Franklin, failed to recognize the deeper problem in her relationship with their child. When Kevin cried and Eva could not calm him, Franklin gave advice like "you just need to rock him." Kevin did not cry around Franklin and formed a somewhat healthier relationship with him throughout his life. Franklin attributed Eva's detachment from Kevin to her not trying to bond with him. Brummelte and Galea mention that children of depressed mothers are less likely to feel securely attached; "mother-infant attachment is defined as the infant using the mother as a source of safety, security and protection" (157). Insecure attachment is related to maternal insensitivity and a lack of responsiveness to the children's cues, which has negative consequences for child development.

When Kevin was around 8 years old, Eva told him that a new baby was on the way and that babies came from implanted seeds. He in

After Kevin is convicted for his crimes, Eva becomes the target of hatred. The parents of those who were Kevin's victims begin to harass her and call her names. Is it her bad parenting to blame for his son's crimes? Or is she just the scapegoat in this situation? Eva hides and does not fight with them, because somehow, she also blames herself for how her child turned out. She felt responsible for not having a bond with Kevin, for never fixing their relationship, and not being a mother to him.

Throughout the film, we see Kevin and Eva standing far away from each other, there is a clear distance between them. The movie ends with Eva giving him a hug. Although we know that a hug is not the solution, it is symbolic of what Kevin always wanted from her: acceptance, closeness, and a bond.

Ultimately, one of the main takeaways I got from this movie is that we need to pay more attention to postpartum depression because it is detrimental for child development. We need to conduct more research to both reduce social stigma and pressure to feel a "maternal instinct" Most importantly, research can improve our current intervention methods and treatments, thus improving the quality of life for many mothers and children in the future.

Ramsay, L. (2011). . BBC Films.
Brummelte, S., and Galea, L. A. (2016). Postpartum depression: Etiology, treatment and consequences for maternal care. 77: 153-166.

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as the meaning of love, sex, and mischief from a very young age. Additionally, he showed a high capability to lie, deceive, intimidate, and retaliate that he perfected as he grew. Ultimately, he orchestrated a vendetta against his mother; he killed Franklin and Celia but left his mother alive.