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Crime writing continues to exhibit its relevance throughout time due to the fluidity of the genre, and as a result communicate the messages of the contexts and values of various societies and cultures to those audiences it holds, significant examples of these including 'The Skull Beneath the Skin' (P.D. James), 'Rear Window' (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954), 'Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet' (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and 'The Big Sleep' (1946). Within these texts, through the use of symbolism, irony, depth and juxtaposition, among other forms, the significant messages and ideals of various societies and cultures become apparent through these texts. It is these forms of expression that the themes of a need to find 'The Skull Beneath the Skin', by P.D. James, ~~is~~ just exemplifies this ideal — justice, a vicarious wish to involve ones self in murder, and a desire to contemplate the views of different contexts, as expressed through these works, are formed.

'The Skull Beneath the Skin', by P.D. James, exemplifies the importance of the recurring societal and cultural need to derive justice from disorder. Within this text however, the extent to which this is required is challenged, in that while a barbarous form of justice is dealt upon the key criminal, in their drowning, the escape of the accessory and mastermind indicates a society in which money and

power can diminish ones responsibilities to the society. Conversely, the intertextual reference to the character of Cordelia in 'King Lear' establishes the dogged and enduring nature of justice, constantly enacting order and balance from disorder as long as it stands. James' use of allusion, intertextual reference and layered metaphors in her use of an actress in one of Webster's tragedies, foreshadowing her death, also establishes a number of ideas about the society in which the text is set. On one hand, it emphasises that the our whole society is an act, a play, in order to mask our fear of 'the skull beneath the skin', while alternatively it suggests a facaded society on a far more deeper level, as various hidden vices and secrets vendettas stimulate the movement of this society. It is this fear that also establishes and affirms the use of the highly materialistic actress, faced with our own mortality, our society attempts to idolise concepts such as sex and wealth, the depth of these desires being realised as the main perpetrators of the crime, though in this case an abhorrence and lust for respectively. This is well conveyed through the medium of crime writing, as while it contains all the components of a classic golden age tale, each component is quickly subverted; a cast of suspects becomes deeply detailed characters, the

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setting conveys a sense of history and dread (overstating, etc), thus indicating how relevant a means such a genre is to conveying the various values and perceptions of a society, as indicated above. It allows for what was originally a puzzle to become a tangled web, with multiple perspectives interweaving in order to establish a more realistic result and understanding of motive, allowing for the audience to ~~emph~~ empathise both with the protagonist, following their reasoning, though also with the other characters, and their motives, as further conveyed through texts such as 'A Study in Scarlet', as one requires the in-depth background and motivation to understand the criminal.

Alternatively, ~~the~~ Alfred Hitchcock's 'Rear Window' aptly demonstrates the core need for society to attain justice, seen in the use of the subversion of the ~~an~~ traditional detective with an amateur sleuth, an incapacitated civilian at that. This not only indicates how relevant the genre is to society, in that it conveys the desire for justice but this text in particular also satisfies many other humanistic needs. The use of the window is symbolic in particular, as it not only metaphorically indulges the human curiosity to experience murder, conveyed through the vicarious portal, but it also allows the

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audience to emphasise with the protagonist and his determination to find the solution of the case, though unlike the other texts, which portrays the classic 'who dunnit'; this instead ~~pro~~ portrays a 'how dunnit'. Furthermore, the text holds relevance in that it communicates many values of the time, particularly the rise of the feminist movement, symbolised by the frequent experiences of Jefferson's female companions while he sits impotently ~~in~~ in his chair. Such an ideal is reflected in the 'Big Sleep,' seen in the methods used to bypass the heavily conservative & censored 'class' regulations of the time, which, like the suspense of 'Rear Window,' or the intertwined romance of 'A Study in Scarlet,' serves to popularise and attract audiences, therefore cementing its relevance.