

Philosophy Café



J & B Coffee
26th and Boston
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016

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The Paradox of Horror

Variety calls *Don't Breathe* “a muscular exercise in brutal, relentless peril that should please genre fans.” Why would anyone be *pleased* by an exercise in brutal, relentless peril? Why are there *fans* of a film genre that seems single-mindedly directed towards terrifying you? What the hell is *wrong* with people?

The “paradox of horror” or “problem of tragedy” goes back to David Hume (and perhaps even further to Aristotle), who asks, how is it that we are *pleased* by the experience of such negative emotions as fear, disgust, pity, and terror when they are aroused by fictions? Why do we (at least some of us) seek these fictions out when we otherwise avoid experiences of fear, disgust, pity, and terror in our lives?

Come find out... *IF YOU DARE!!* MUHAHAHAHAHA!!!
(Seriously, you'll enjoy it.)