

# STAN

A slice of British Horror



By Anthony  
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# OVERVIEW

TITLE: STAN

WRITER: Anthony Straeger

GENRE: Psychological Horror

STYLE: The Machinist (2004) meets Fight Club 1999

FORMAT: 95 Minute

TIME: Present

TAGLINE: Psychology... It's a bit of a carve up.

STRAP-LINE: Take one of life losers and a pinch of Schizophrenic and a BoxCutter knife with a mind of it's own and you have a receipt for disaster....

SUMMARY: Suffering from low self esteem Stan has fumbled his way through life. Karen his long term girlfriend is feeling the strain of propping him up and life seems to be conspiring against him. Stan gets a calling... But is it from within or is it real? Stanley the voice of a box-cutter rings in his head and draws him to a DIY store. Once the connection is made it seals the fate of both Stan and his victims alike. Wrestling with conscience and psychosis, Stan is driven down a road of murder and mayhem.

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# SYNOPSIS

STAN is a statement of urban psychosis. In a world where achievement is everything and failure unthinkable, the weak struggle to survive and Stan Leigh is dysfunctional and a failure.

It seems that when you're down everything plots against you and for Stan there is no exception - A gang of youths take him unaware & deliver an unmerciful kicking. A 'Road Rage' driver takes great relish in splashing him as he drives by. A priest seems to have more than a helping hand in mind and his doctor, Dr. Jasper withdraw Stan's medication after years of him suffering with schizophrenia.

Karen, his long-term girlfriend has found it hard to sustain their relationship. Her sense of guilt & duty prevent her from leaving him and though unhappy has tried to keep things together. Her best friend Sarah however has other ideas and is conspiring to separate them. One more nail in Stan's coffin.

This all conspires to make Stan's life hell, causing life to take a wrong turn when a voice from the void calls to Stan. He tries to ignore it but to no avail and offering solutions to his miserable plight he follows the voice to its source, located in a DIY shop... and it turns out to be nothing more than a 'Boxcutter Knife'. But, this is no ordinary knife. This knife has a mind of it's own and an attitude to match, as it sets about drawing Stan into a world darker than he could have ever dreamt.

The knife has a plans - To leads Stan into a ballet of violence that will inflict carnage & chaos on his predators, who now become his prey.

Stan's world is a blur of reality and fantasy, unable to differentiate between right and wrong, real and delusion, Stan sets off with his new found friend on a murder spree to find the answer to his dilemma. Nobody escapes including Karen and her best friend Sarah.

The final cut takes place on a cold wet morning. Doctor Jasper's on his way as usual to the train station. The knife conspires to create one of Stan's most senseless attacks. The rain falls and the world stops as the doctor is slashed & tumbles to his death. The police arrive to deal with the crazed killer.

Stan has his final confrontation with the knife that reveals the horrifying truth to him - He is the guiding hand of the murdering spree & not the knife.

The TV news reports the mayhem as Stan is bundled into the back of a police van & driven away. The knife is tossed into the police car. Suddenly, one of the officers takes the knife and slashes his partner & then himself - Nothing is what it seems.



# STATEMENT

For the likes of STAN it's a cold confusing world where the edges of reality are blurred. This will be reflected in the texture and shooting style of STAN.

A person diagnosed with schizophrenia may experience hallucinations (most reported are hearing voices), delusions (often bizarre or persecutory in nature), and disorganized thinking and speech. The latter may range from loss of train of thought, to sentences only loosely connected in meaning, to incoherence known as word salad in severe cases. Social withdrawal, sloppiness of dress and hygiene, and loss of motivation and judgment are all common in schizophrenia. There is often an observable pattern of emotional difficulty, for example lack of responsiveness. Impairment in social cognition is associated with schizophrenia, as are symptoms of paranoia; social isolation commonly occurs. In one uncommon subtype, the person may be largely mute, remain motionless in bizarre postures, or exhibit purposeless agitation, all signs of catatonia.

Late adolescence and early adulthood are peak periods for the onset of schizophrenia, critical years in a young adult's social and vocational development. In 40% of men and 23% of women diagnosed with schizophrenia the condition manifested itself before the age of 19. To minimize the developmental disruption associated with schizophrenia, much work has recently been done to identify and treat the prodromal (pre-onset) phase of the illness, which has been detected up to 30 months before the onset of symptoms. Those who go on to develop schizophrenia may experience transient or self-limiting psychotic symptoms and the non-specific symptoms of social withdrawal, irritability and dysphoria during the prodromal phase.

STAN is a statistic, a number,  
a 'normal person' dealing (or not) with his  
psychosis.

A true slice of British life, it cuts into the  
heart of city living.

Not just a slasher, but a drama.  
Not just a horror, but a tense thriller.

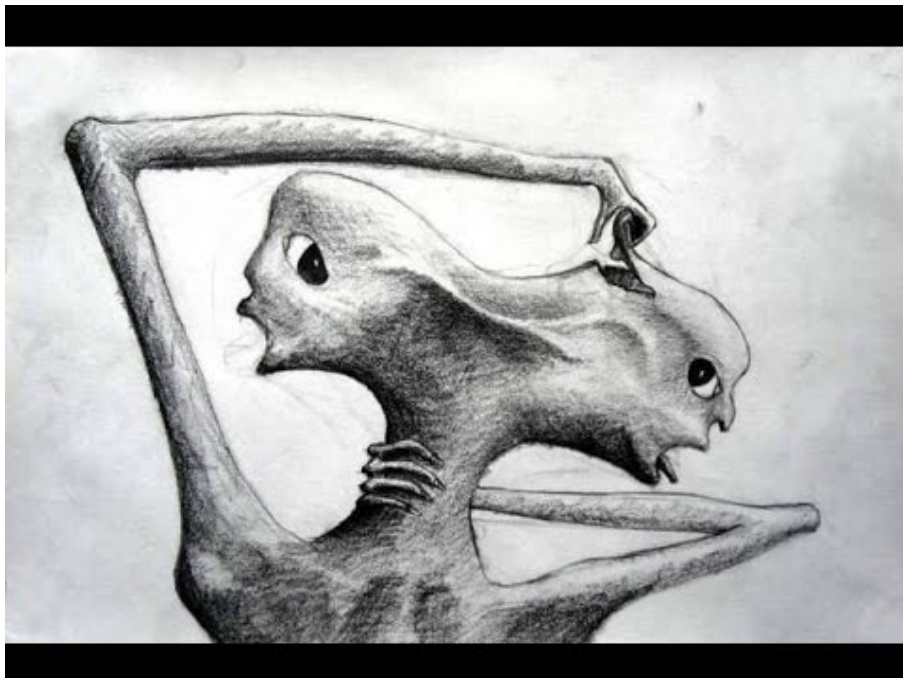


# SCHIZOPHRENIA

Is a mental disorder characterized by disintegration of thought processes and of emotional responsiveness. It most commonly manifests as auditory hallucinations, paranoia or bizarre delusions, or disorganized speech and thinking, and it is accompanied by significant social or occupational dysfunction. The onset of symptoms typically occurs in young adulthood, with a global lifetime prevalence of about 0.3–0.7%. Diagnosis is based on observed behavior and the patient's reported experiences.

Genetics, early environment, neurobiology, psychological and social processes appear to be important contributory factors; some recreational and prescription drugs appear to cause or worsen symptoms. Current research is focused on the role of neurobiology, although no single isolated organic cause has been found. The many possible combinations of symptoms have triggered debate about whether the diagnosis represents a single disorder or a number of discrete syndromes. Despite the etymology of the term from the Greek roots *skhizein* (σχίζειν, "to split") and *phrēn*, *phren-* (φρήν, φρεν-; "mind"), schizophrenia does not imply a "split mind" and it is not the same as dissociative identity disorder, also known as "multiple personality disorder" or "split personality"—a condition with which it is often confused in public perception.

STAN takes an angle on this and shows how the system is unable to cope as much as the sufferer and his victims. The questions to be asked are, 'Are psychological problems an acceptable excuse for murder?' Can they relieve someone of responsibility for their actions? Or are there some crimes where a punishment must be enforced?



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