

## ▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣

TITLE	PSYCHO
DIRECTOR	ALFRED HITCHCOCK
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1960 U.S.A.
GENRE	THRILLER
ACTORS	Anthony Perkins (Norman Bates), Janet Leigh (Marion Crane), John Gavin (Sam Loomis), Vera Miles (Marion's sister, Lila) Martin Balsam (Arbogast).



## PLOT

Marion Crane is a trusted secretary who steals \$40,000 in cash that her boss entrusts her with, planning to take it to her lover, Sam, and start a new life. However, she is not very good at being a criminal and makes a policeman suspicious, and also a car salesman when she trades in her car.

Due to a heavy rainstorm, she ends up at the Bates motel, which is well off the main highway, where the shy manager offers her a room, a meal and a chat. They have a conversation about life's traps which makes Marion decide to give the money back. However, Marion is murdered in the shower before she can carry out her plan.

Wanting to get the money back without involving the police, Marion's boss, her sister and the boss's associate pay a private detective, Arbogast, to track her down. After notifying Lila and Sam that he is intending to interview Bates' mother, Arbogast disappears, and the two searchers contact the local sheriff. Here they make some discoveries which lead them to go out to the motel themselves and solve the mystery.

## LANGUAGE

This movie contains very little complex vocabulary – indeed, it contains relatively little dialogue. The English used, although American in accent, is standard and classic, with the slight exception of the sheriff, who uses a few more colourful expressions (e.g. “Hot creepers“ to indicate surprise).

## VOCABULARY

"They also pay who sleep in hotel rooms": reworking of a famous line in a poem by Milton on his blindness (sonnet XIX) "They also serve [God] who only stand and wait"	You think I'm fruity: play on words: "Fruity=crazy. Norman's mother is being sarcastic about being put in the fruit cellar
fancy (adj): elaborate, showy, superior	dank: unpleasantly cold and damp
parlour: a room used for talking or receiving guests	socked away: stashed, stored, hidden, put in a safe place
to pry: to try to find out about somebody's private business	pull over: bring the car to the side of the road and stop
to claw: to scratch with the nails, like a wild beast	pink slip: a document proving your car is in good condition and safe to drive
"If it doesn't gel, it isn't aspic": basically "I don't believe it"/ "It doesn't feel right". Aspic is savoury gelatin and "to gel" is to start solidifying	to have the guts: to have the courage
"Old habits die hard": proverbial saying: it's very difficult to stop doing what you've been used to doing for a long time	clamped: blocked, stuck
"Drop it in the lap of the law": let the police take care of it	(doesn't/wouldn't) budge: something that refuses to move or someone whose opinion you can't change
to throw someone over: to stop seeing s.o. you are (romantically) involved with, usually because you prefer someone else	stuffy: an atmosphere where you perceive a lack of oxygen in the air
(To get down to the) nuts and bolts: to consider the basics, practical details	