

## ARE MURDERERS CRAZY?

Is John Doe mad in *Seven*? Or just brilliant and lonely, a light in his own dark? Does it help to pin these labels on him? Once upon a time, we were told there could be a pitch of evil in mankind that was simply insane. Over the edge. This was how Hitler was explained to me when I was a child, and it was said with a sigh of relief, as if, Thank God, his monstrousness had been dealt with so we could all move on. But have we ever reconciled ourselves to what he and his people did? These days, is anyone exactly deranged in movies if we are paying to watch? Doesn't commodification act like Valium?

In *Seven*, John (can I call him that?) is one of the most organized and authoritative people in cinema. He plans and devises murders that would be beyond the imagining of most of us, and which are too concerned with carnal disintegration to entertain Agatha Christie. You'd have to love your work to have such care