

Purgatory - Reaction Paper

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This is a reaction paper based on the movie Purgatory by Jack Stockley. The movie is based on the dynamics of a couple's abusive relationship. In this paper, I would be sharing my reflections on the movie and how I would intervene if I were the abused partner's therapist.

When I watched this film I was shocked by Adam's character because in the beginning of the movie he came across as generous and kind to his girlfriend. He was using kind words to talk to her and was so sweet. However, as the film progressed, he tried to control and manipulate everything about her, even family contact. He also interrogated her about her appearance, questioning why she wore makeup and got dressed up to receive food from the delivery man. His jealous reaction to her appearance and his anger in that particular scene displayed Adam's lack of trust for Lileth. Adam was an insecure man and he projected his fears and insecurities onto Lileth. He was also a master manipulator, he knew what to say and how to say it, in order to charm Lileth, but he meant none of it. As she let her guard down and became dependent on him, Adam began to exert power over Lileth by using intimidation tactics such as yelling, hitting the table and breaking the dishes during arguments.

The male actor Adam seemed to love and care for his partner, but in a conversation, Lileth talked about seeing a doctor because of her difficulty in urinating, but he ignored and avoided this issue and told her that it was not a big deal. In addition, he had a negative reaction to her desire to meet her mother. I can see that he had no reason preventing her from seeing her mother. In the movie, Adam took control of his partner's interpersonal relationships and continued the relationship with her. In one scene, she dressed up and applied makeup because she wanted to look pretty to Adam. However, he did not believe her and was very upset. This was a symptom of anger dysregulation.

Lilith was very dependent on Adam. She did not make decisions on her own and seemed to have had a hard time living independently. She may have suffered abuse in her childhood, and may have also experienced trauma from a former heterosexual relationship. Her low self-esteem can be seen in her efforts to please her partner with all her words and actions. Lilith did not have outside meetings or work. She was completely isolated. The only thing that made her smile and brought her joy was when she dressed up and did her makeup. Every morning when she went to the bathroom, she felt pain and sobbed silently. There was a scene when she stood in front of the bathroom mirror and said that, "Today will be a good day," I think is a self-suggestive spell because she's not happy. Signs of abuse include difficulty urinating, social anxiety disorder (trying to quickly end a conversation with a delivery person), dependent personality disorder, cutting off from outside life and doing household chores, and not even contacting close friends or family. The medicine lamp on the screen indicates that she is isolated and unable to ask for help from those around her. Perhaps she feels ashamed of her situation and is unable to express it further.

If I were Lilith's counselor, first look at Lilith's adult attachment, and note the particular impact of her childhood and past relationships with males. and counsel her about the time constraints she currently dictates. Above all, the Intimate Partner Violence Attitude Scale—Revised (IPVAS—R; Fincham et al., 2008), which can recognize mediation of oppression the relationship with the partner, and then introduces a violence prevention program and will suggest that she be protected. after that, I will ask for a place where she could find safety and referred her to a hotline or hospital that could help.

Reference

McDermott, R. C., & Lopez, F. G. (2013). College men's intimate partner violence attitudes: Contributions of adult attachment and gender role stress. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 60*(1), 127–136. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.nyack.edu/10.1037/a0030353>

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