

**Purgatory Reaction Paper**

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The movie Purgatory begins with the husband (Adam) waking up his wife (Lilith). Adams seems to be very affectionately while asking Lilith how her night went. Lilith answers stating she does not remember how it surpassed. He states that he hopes she feels better today. At that time, he then told her to get up and get out of bed. As soon as she arises out of bed she put in eyedrops then she goes to the restroom. Then she looks in the mirror and states today is going to be a good day. She then uses the toilet and begins to express pain while she urinates, she wipes herself then stares at the wipe. She walks out of the restroom and walks into the kitchen. She than walks out and tells him that she sees blood and feels that she needs to go to the doctor. He than dismiss her claims and makes it seem like what she is experiencing is not detrimental, and states that the human body will fix itself. He claims she should worry. She tries to defend her stance, and he continues to make her feel as if she is lost. Then tells her to look out for a delivery and kiss her goodbyes as goes to work.

In the next scene the delivery comes in, and she gets a call from her mother. She ignores the phone call and her mothers leaves a message. As she unpacks the delivery package she than listen to the message that her mother left. The mother seems as if she misses her daughter and wants to spend time with her. Her mother states in the message that she would like to see her engagement ring. Her mother is trying to make plans with her. However, in the first scene it shows that the ring on her finger is a wedding band. She than opens her texts messages. After an extensive list of left over messages she texts her mother back to tell her she misses her. Then she goes back to unpacking the delivery.

In the third scene she seems like she is trying to pick out a dress to look good for her husband. Adam comes in, and she is excited to show him the new dress she bought. She asked

him does he like it. He then shifts the conversation by asking her why. Then proceeds to ask if she was dressed in that manner when the delivery man came. She then states she was not. She then states that he would not have been interested in her. Then he questions her about her hair being down and states that she knows it looks better up. She then explains that because of the dress she decided to put it down. He then began to question her intelligence and storms off.

In the next scene they are eating dinner. She asks him how's the dinner. He states it was delicious. She brings up the phone call from her mother. He then states that he was surprised that she answered the phone. She admits that she didn't answer the phone. Then she shared that her mother wanted to meet up with her on Saturday. Adam quickly interrupt by telling her that he usually sees his mother on Saturdays, so they cannot see her. She then requested a change. He then asks her why. He immediately makes it seem as if the mother never thinks of their plans, is controlling and states that she is a dictator of her whereabouts. She quickly defends her mother. He then mentions a past episode of a statement that Lilith mother stated. He then stated that the mother was poison and that soon she would see it too. She then asked if asking her mother to change the time would make it better, and she could see her alone. He ignores her for a minute. She then admits her mothers said horrible statements. Adam interrupt her and tries states that her mother is bad news, and he has to deal with it. She tries to defend her mother, he becomes angry and slams the table and tells her she can not see her mom. She begins to cry. He tells her to stop it. Throws the food on the floor. Adam tells her to clean up the mess and storms out of the dining room.

In the fourth scene. She proceeds to cry some more and is cleaning the kitchen. He comes back into the kitchen and pours two glasses of when. He then apologizes and tells her he loves

her. He tells her not to cry and offers her a glass of wine. She does not seem like she wants to drink it, but he insists that she drinks the wine. She drinks the wine, and he tells her he loves her.

In the fifth scene they are both getting ready to go to sleep. Lilith tries to get take sleeping pills. Adam states that Lilith does not need the sleeping pills. He than proceeds to call her a drunkard. She explains that she needs it to fall asleep. He than states that she has had enough to drink according to him and does not need any pills. Lilith than lays next to him, and he brushes her off. A few seconds later her kisses her on the forehead. As she sleeps Adam gets up and begins to caress Lilith.

Then the morning begins, and he repeats everything he states in the first scene. He is being nice to her and hands her a cup of tea. He proceeds to wake her up. However, this time she is a sweating severely. Adam kisses her, she puts in her eyedrops. She goes into the restroom, looks in the mirror, sits on the restroom and urinates. Lilith seems like she is in more pain than the first scene. She wipes herself and sees blood on the wipe. She than looks into the mirror and states, "Today is going to be a good day."

In the movie Purgatory the main male character is depicted as the abuser. He is not physically abusive, but he is verbally and emotionally abusive. In the all the scenes he swaps in and out of character. He is affectionate one minute and the next he is questioning Lilith, making her doubt herself or becoming aggressive toward her. As they went to bed he would berate her, when he was the one who insisted that she drink. She did not want to engage in the drinking, yet he told her she was a drunkard. Lilith went to sleep, she appeared to be unconscious. Adam gave the impression that he was taking advantage of her. Afterward in the morning he switched to being affectionate towards the wife and giving Lilith a cup of tea, while encouraging her to get out of bed. She heads to the restroom where she gives herself a talk that she would have a better

day. Lilith goes and urinates there she is having a lot of pain. She is also bleeding (This may be due to Adam sexually assaulting her while she sleeps and is unaware). Lilith tells him that she is in pain. He then diminishes her concerns. He then gaslights her into believing that her symptoms are not real.

Lilith is depicted as the victim in the story. She is constantly trying to please her abuser, Adam. In the second and third scene it depicts that she is being isolated from her mother. When her mother calls her in the second scene she deliberately ignores her mother's phone call. She then listens to her mother's message of her wanting to see her. She listens to the message and goes to text the mother. The mother seems as if she has been texting her, but she wasn't responding. She sends her a message then to tell her mother that she misses her. As she is having dinner with her Adam, she brings up that she would like to see her mom. He immediately makes it known that his priority is seeing his mother. She tries to say that they can make a change. He tries to spin it on the mother and make it out to be as if the mother is controlling, when it is truly him. She tries to convince him to change his mind. He becomes aggressive, slams the table and throws his dinner to the ground. He even blames the mother for ruining his dinner even when she is not in attendance. He storms off, knowing Lilith is emotional. He then comes back trying to apologize and stating that he loves her with a glass of wine. He never holds himself accountable or decide to change plans to see Lilith's mother. Adam appears to understand that Lilith's mother is the only one who tells her the truth about him. Therefore, he chooses to isolate Lilith's mother from her. That way he can control her as he wishes.

There are more signs of abuse throughout the movie. Lilith tries to dress up to make him happy during dinner. She displays that she is excited to see him and surprise him with her new look. However, he does not acknowledge her efforts. He simply asks her why she did this.

He afterward asked if she was wearing the dress when the delivery man was there. When he sees that she has her hair down, he tells her she knows it looks better when its up. Lilith explains that she choose that hairstyle due to the dress she was wearing. He berates her intelligence by telling her there she goes thinking.

The dynamic of “Power and Control comes the Duluth model. In this visual representation it shows the most commonly used abuse tactics. This includes economic abuse, male privilege, minimizing, denying, emotional abuse, using children, blaming, isolation, intimidation, coercion threats physical and sexual abuse. In the film there was various of these examples being displayed. Adam used many of these example to abuse Lilith. As mentioned previously, he minimized her health concerns, he isolated her from her mother. He slammed the table in intimidation when she wanted to see her mother. Adam knew he was sexually assaulting Lilith, but denied her bleeding. Adam coerced Lilith to drink the wine then emotionally abused her and told her she was a drunk.

Lilith's character seems like she is not leaving the relationship for several reasons. One of the reasons maybe because she is totally dependent on Adam. Lilith doesn't seem like she works out of the home. She seems like he is the provider, and she is the homemaker. Lilith also seems like she is drawn into his constant manipulation. She looks as though she believes every word that comes out of his mouth. Lilith shows a bit of insecurity in herself. When Adam question if the delivery man saw her in the dress. She stated that he would not have been interested in her regardless.

Cognitive Processing therapy (CPT) would work best for Lilith. CPT is a form of cognitive behavioral therapy. This form of therapy teaches clients to evaluate their thinking after experiencing trauma. If Lilith thought process can change, she can also change how she

perceives herself. Lilith is not a child or an elderly person, therefore abuse cannot be reported.

However, the counselors job is to help direct her in the right direction. The therapist position in this situation is to equip clients with the tools to help clients deal with upsetting thoughts. In the fullness of time the client would have to make sense of a new perspective(Corey, 2017).

### References

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