

Purgatory: Reaction Paper

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling

GCN 617.NOS AND OA Crisis Intervention Strategies for Trauma and Abuse

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Adam portrays to be kind, charismatic, and a loving husband but he gradually starts showing signs of being controlling, emotional manipulation, domineering and cunning.

I would describe Lilith as a young woman that doesn't appear to be confident and seems to struggle with her mental health.

Adam is abusive towards Lilith in several occasions. He criticizes Lilith's appearance in order to break her down and forget her identity. This form of abuse makes a person feel insecure and they believe that the abuser is the only one that will accept them. There was another incident where Adam tells her that he won't hit her but points out that he could've if but then he proceeds to throw the food at her and demands that she clean it up as a form of intimidation.

One tactic of isolation is how Adam keeps Lilith away from her support network by reminding her that she can't meet with her family because they meet with his mother every week and that he is not liked by her mother. Lilith tries to negotiate time with her family.

One form of power and control in this film is when Adam persuades Lilith to drink the wine that she didn't want and then he judges her when she appears intoxicated. He then violates her while she sleeps. Another form of power and control that's played out in the film is when Lilith begs to see a doctor because she's concerned about her health and Adam becomes dismissive and frustrated and convinces her that there's nothing wrong with her and tells her she would look stupid by going.

Lilith doesn't leave the relationship because she believes Adam is her safety net. I believe that she has know idea that she's being abused but her gut tells her there's something wrong. Adam is able to hide his true self because he acts like a caring husband so he can manipulate and control her.

As her therapist, I would be very supportive and I wouldn't judge her decision of staying with her husband. I would work on creating a safety plan and rebuilding her self-esteem and recommending cognitive behavioral therapy.