

The Vacation

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Integrating Activity W2020

### Log Line:

Delirious mother and nimble daughter take a road trip in order to rekindle their relationship. Once they arrive however, they are at a fight for survival.

### Synopsis:

A young mother and her educated daughter travel together after the death of the father and in an attempt to rekindle their relationships. Once they arrive, they discover they are in a fight for survival.

### Universe:

The universe is set in present day Canada. The society Indigenous people are under represented and the rich culture is used for exploitation by non Indigenous individuals. The women are in danger of being taken and used for sex trafficking with no help from government officials to find the perpetrators, or gain recognition for the atrocities. A beautiful culture filled with storytelling, language, connection with the environment is overlooked and viewed as prejudice.

### Theme(s):

The importance of mother daughter relationships as well as remembering who you are.

### Characters:

Reagan (19): Very smart, and considers herself to be smarter than her mother and is not afraid to act on it.

Vanessa (37): Keeps her identity hidden with hopes that her daughter will never uncover her secrets.

EXT. HOME. AFTERNOON

PUSH across a leaf strewn lawn with dogs eating at an old carcass. The home is worn down by disrepair, like every other home in the neighbourhood.

Clouds begin to accumulate in the sky as a woman (35) exits the home with suitcases. She throws the bags in the trunk and holds her hand out to feel any raindrops.

She walks back into the home and waits at the entrance.

VANESSA

Alright, Reagan it's time to go. we don't got all day.

A young woman (19) with long black hair and tanned complexion stands in front of a picture of her father wearing his favourite BlueJays shirt that reads 'in loving memory of Richard Johnson'. Reagan kisses her two fingers and presses them against the picture before she annoyingly prances down the stairs to meet her mother. Vanessa turns to follow her daughter to the old Toyota red pickup, takes a deep breath in and exhales.

INT. TRUCK. AFTERNOON

They enter the truck, both having to jump because they are too short. Vanessa closes her door, and Reagan slams hers shut. Vanessa glances at her daughter.

VANESSA

You know you don't have to act like a big brat. I'm trying to do something nice for us by planning this getaway.

REAGAN

You know, MOTHER maybe I would have just been happy staying at home where you get drunk and leave me alone.

Reagan turns her head to face the window and crosses her arms. She slides down the chair in order to hide herself.

She puts her earphones in and the song Hotel California by The Eagles begins playing and watches the rain drip down the window. They continue to drive.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD. LATER THAT DAY

The truck makes its way into the gated community where the rental home is. They park at a gate before entering where an older gentleman dressed in white approaches the vehicle

MAN

Welcome, how may I assist you?

VANESSA

Uh, I rented a home for a few days.

She opens the side drawer and scrambles through papers to find the names of the owners.

VANESSA

Ah hah, here is it. Umm its the Smith residents.

The man glance at both women and smirks. An ominous look is seen in his eyes.

MAN

oh yes, it is a beautiful residence.  
you will have a wonderful time. Enjoy  
yourselves.

He buzzes the gate open and they drive in. He watches as they leave and the gate shuts behind them.

REAGAN

Frick, well that wasn't weird at all.

VANESSA

Maybe he's a little off, you know like  
your cousin.

REAGAN

Which one?

She giggles.

As they are driving through the neighbourhood, they realize all the houses look similar to one another. White picket fences, perfectly mowed lawns, they were all perfect.

REAGAN

This is way different from the rez.

Vanessa amazed at what she is seeing

VANESSA  
It's beautiful.

Reagan looks at her in confusion.

EXT. RENTAL HOME. LATER THAT DAY

The truck pulls up to a beautiful victorian style home. The home is an all white mansion with generic architecture. A couple dressed in all white, are waiting to greet them at the door.

Vanessa is amazed and quickly gets out of the truck. Reagan, feeling uneasy stays in the truck and examines the home from a far.

She pulls out her phone and struggles to obtain a wifi connection.

REAGAN  
Damn it, you'd think for a rich  
neighbourhood they'd at least have  
good wifi.

She rolls her eyes and proceeds to exit the truck.

They both walk up towards the couple who are waiting on the bottom steps.

GUENETH  
Hello, welcome to our home. I am  
Gueneth, and this is my husband Eric.  
We are delighted to have you here.

VANESSA  
Oh, well were happy to be here. This  
is my daughter Reagan.

Occupied, Reagan is watching the next door neighbour clean her lawn.

VANESSA  
Reagan?

Reagan regains her focus.

REAGAN  
yeah yeah, hi nice to meet you.

She walks off and heads toward the neighbour. She notices the woman wearing turtle earrings with specific coloured beads

that look familiar.

VANESSA

I apologize, ever since her dad passed she's been a bit hostile... hun can you come back here please?

GUENETH

My dear, it is no worry. We can let her explore the grounds. It is a very safe neighbourhood, we all watch out for one another.

They proceed to enter the house.

EXT. NEIGHBORS. SAME DAY

Reagan walks towards the neighbours home. She passes the side of the home and hears screaming coming from inside.

She squints her eyes, cleans the glasss, and crouches down to looks inside the fogged up window. A woman approaches behind her.

WOMAN

Hey! What do you think you're doing?

Reagan quickly gets up and brushes the dirt off her knees.

REAGAN

Im sorry, I thought I heard something.

WOMAN

You know you shouldn't be snooping around. Figures, you people don't have any manners.

REAGAN

You people?

WOMAN

Yes, beautofiful people with such a rich culture. You are so adventurous... I wish I could be like that.

The woman turns around and quietly mouths 'savages' under her breath and rolls her eyes.

Reagan is able to get a good look at the earrings and realizes they were ones her cousin loved to wear.

The Smiths are seen exiting the back of the home and see Reagan with the neighbour. Before Reagan can reply, she is interrupted by Gueneth.

GUENETH

Mrs. McGee, how nice to see you! I see you've met our guests.

Mrs. McGee smiles and waves goodbye.

Reagan walks towards her mother and they enter the home.

Mrs. McGee turns towards Gueneth and realizes she had been staring at her with an evil unimpressed look.

They couple enters the home.

INT. RENTAL HOME. BEDROOM

The Smiths carry the bags up to the bedroom and place them in the rooms that they will be staying. The rooms are vintage, with big portraits of white colonists on the walls.

GUENETH

All of our contact information can be found in the kitchen drawer. We have another home down the road which we will be staying. Don't hesitate to call if you need anything.

VANESSA

Thank you so much, or as we say  
Nia:wen.

Gueneth gets an uncomfortable look on her face, turns around, and leaves with her husband.

Reagan jumps on her mothers bed and stares up at the ceiling.

REAGAN

That neighbour has someone in her basement.

VANESSA

What?

REAGAN

She has cages and chains. I heard screaming.

VANESSA  
You're being irrational.

REAGAN  
She had the exact same earrings as  
cousin Joelle.

Vanessa stops unpacking.

VANESSA  
Don't.

REAGAN  
Just because the cops never found her,  
it doesn't mean she's gone. You know  
damn well the cops don't give a rats  
ass about us.

VANESSA  
I said STOP.

REAGAN  
You never talk about our culture, or  
who you are. Why are you hiding?

Reagan storms out and goes to her room. Vanessa continues to  
fold her clothes and holds the cross around her neck.

INT. BEDROOM. EVENING

Reagan enters her bedroom, and adamantly looks around her  
room. She opens the curtains to find that her window has bars  
over it, making escape impossible.

REAGAN  
What the fuck.

She can see Mrs. McGee's bedroom from her window, she sees  
Mrs. McGee enter her bedroom. Reagan hides behind the thin  
curtains.

She glances, vision hindered by the drapery.

Gueneth suddenly enters the bedroom with her husband and  
begins beating Mrs. McGee with a bat with needles embedded in  
it.

REAGAN  
Gasps. oh my god.

She grabs her cellphone to call 911 but there is still no



service. She looks back up, and Gueneth is looking right at her. Reagan ducks and runs into her mothers room.

REAGAN

Mom, mom!

She sees her mother passed out on the bed with a bottle of wine half empty and stained glass in her hand.

REAGAN

Are you serious?

She taps her mothers cheek and tries to wake her up.

REAGAN

Damn it.

She picks up her mothers suitcase and throws it on the bed. She opens each drawer and puts the clothing in the suitcase without folding them.

Gueneth approaches behind her and hits her on the head. Reagan is unconscious.

INT. BASEMENT. EVENING.

Reagan slowly opens her eyes to see that her hands and feet are tied up with rope to a chair. She is sitting in front of what looks like a projector screen. The room is dark, and eerie. The echoing sounds of nothingness haunt her.

She looks to her left to see her mother beginning to wake up. The Smiths enter dressed in all white but wearing native jewellery.

Reagan, frightened... begins to speak.

REAGAN

what... what the fuck is this?

Her mother, begins to weep.

Gueneth approaches Vanessa and caresses her face.

GUENETH

shh shh, everything will be alright.  
You see, we are the superior beings.  
we have been here since the beginning  
of time, not you hooligans.

Her tone begins to get more aggressive

GUENETH

Back in the day, your mother used to be one of our little experiments. She thought we wouldn't find her....  
FOOLISH.

REAGAN

mom... what is she talking about

Vanessa, who is still weeping says nothing and bobs her head no.

Gueneth grabs her, turns her around with her back facing Reagan and lifts up her shirt

When Gueneth lifts up Vanessa's shirt, her back is filled with torture scars and burns.

Gueneth puts her shirt back and kicks her chair around.

REAGAN

Mom?

Reagan eyes begins to fill with tears.

As soon as Vanessa is about to speak, Gueneth interrupts by pulling out pictures and newspaper articles that read 'Residential School Burned With Head Nun Trapped Inside' and 'Indian Girl Escapes From School Brutalities, Saves Children'.

She points to the pictures, rips one of them off the wall and places it side by side to Vanessa's face. She turns to Reagan.

GUENETH

Remind you of anyone?

Reagan looks at the photo and recognizes that it is her mother. Completely shocked, her eyes widen and fill with tears. She does not blink, they are running down both her cheeks. After a few seconds she blinks and tries to reach out to her mother.

Gueneth grips the handles on Vanessa's chair, looks at her in the eyes, and smiles.

GUENETH

It took a while to get you here. I couldn't just waltz into your home and get you now could I?

Vanessa looks away in embarrassment.

Gueneth grabs her face very tightly and spits on it.

GUENETH

I was very sorry to hear about your  
beloved husband. It's hard having  
someone you love ripped away from you  
isn't it?

Gueneth slowly walks around them both, grabs a box from the back of the room and kneels in front of them while slowly opening the box. She pulls out a BlueJays t-shirt with some blood on it along with a smaller box. She opens the smaller box and teeth fall on the floor.

Vanessa begins to weep heavily trying not to make noise and Reagan wiggles around to try and get out of the chair. Vanessa signals her husband to grab them.

He opens a steel door behind them and grabs Reagan and pushes her in the room.

REAGAN

Don't fucking touch me.. get your  
hands off of me.

VANESSA

(Shouting)

TAKE ME! TAKE ME INSTEAD.

GUENETH

(Laughs)

We're taking both of you!

Gueneth's husband grabs Vanessa, pushes her in the room, and they both stand in the doorway.

REAGAN

what are you going to do? Kill us?

GUENETH

(giggles)

I'm going to do what I do with all my  
other savages.

she winks and closes the door. The lights are flickering only enough to see each others faces.

VANESSA

I'm... I'm so sorry. I thought this would have been good for you and me. I just wanted us to bond instead of fighting all the time.

REAGAN

How come you never told me?

VANESSA

I was ashamed, of who I was then and who I am now. I relied on your father to take care of you.

Vanessa looks down at her feet and sobs. She looks up at Reagan and mouths 'i'm sorry'.

Reagan begins to cry.

REAGAN

Mom, I understand.

VANESSA

You really are just like your father aren't you?

They both giggle at the same time.

A rush of adrenaline hits Vanessa and she lifts her head back up. She wiggles her feet around and is able to loosen the rope ties. She bends down on the ground and begins to move her arms back and forth to deteriorate the rope. It starts to slip and she is able to untie the loosened knot.

She runs over to Reagan and unties her knots.

Footsteps begin to get closer.

They both pretend to be strapped back to the poles. Gueneth comes back in with a tray full off surgical tools. She grabs a knife and approaches Reagan with a smirk on her face.

GUENETH

Your turn. I want your mother to watch you die first.

Reagan kicks Gueneth in the shin, grabs the knife and cuts open her arm. Vanessa grabs a needle from the table and as Mr Smith is approaching, stabs him in the neck and injects him with the fluid. He begins to seize and falls to the floor foaming at the mouth.

They both rub out the door and close it on Gueneth.

GUENETH  
NOO, you fucking bitch.

She crawls over to her husband and puts her hand on his cheek.

GUENETH  
You're a disgrace, so weak.

She gets up and opens the door.

INT. BASEMENT. EARLY MORNING

The sun rising and beaming rays into the basement. The dust glimmers like glitter when the sun hits it.

Reagan and Vanessa run down a hallway trying to find the way out. They come across a room with a red door. Reagan opens it and they go inside. They turn the lights on and see a room with blood all over the walls, and cages with chains to fit humans. Candles are spread all around the room along with pictures of the community dressed in all white.

REAGAN  
This is a cult.

Her voice quivers.

At the end of the room, framed pictures hang on the wall. They look familiar to Reagan so she approaches.

The pictures are the victims of past kidnappings and tortures. The members are seen holding up heads, and ligaments.

Reagan eyes widen and she holds her mouth so she can't make noise.

REAGAN  
mom.. thats Joelle.

She points at the picture of a young girl with the earrings the neighbour was wearing. She is in the cage, beaten while the members smile with knives in their hands.

They both begin to cry. Vanessa breaks the frame and puts the picture in her bra. She firmly grips onto the piece of glass.

The door swings open, Gueneth is standing in the door frame

the light hitting her back makes her figure look ghostly.

GUENETH

I knew you'd find it.

She walks towards them, holding a knife.

Reagan and Vanessa back away into the wall

VANESSA

Well, you weren't very clever with the red door. its a bit obvious don't you think?

GUENETH

Shut up.. shut up.. shut up.

As she begins to approach one of the cages, Vanessa rushes towards Gueneth and fights with her to get into the cage. Vanessa hits Gueneths head onto the bars and throws her inside. She closes the gate, turns towards Reagan, and looks down to find an oozing stab wound on her left lower abdomen. Gueneth continues to kick the cage and Reagan punches her in the nose, knocking her out.

REAGAN

Mom, we need to go right now.

Vanessa stares at Gueneth as if she is in a trance.

REAGAN

mom.. right now.

She grabs her mothers hand and drags her out of the room. They run through several dark hallways, leaving a trace of blood from her mother's wound.

INT. HALLWAY. MORNING

Vanessa stumbles to the ground from blood loss, Reagan takes off her plaid long sleeve and ties it around her mothers waist. Reagan sees that her mother is still holding onto the glass. She holds onto the wound and they continue to walk down the hallway. The lights flicker and a shadow is seen at the end of it. Gueneth stands at the end of the hallway with a bloody nose holding onto a set of keys interlocked between her fingers.

Gueneth runs towards them in full speed, Reagan grabs a hold of her before she could reach her mother and pulls her to the ground. Gueneth gets on top of her and starts punching her

with the keys interlocked between her fingers. She is losing blood, her face is bloody and swollen. Gueneth begins to strangle Reagan and she is gasping for air.

Vanessa gets up off the floor, stands behind Gueneth and profusely stabs her in the throat. Gueneth holds onto her wound, gasping for air. The blood continues to ooze from her neck, leaving her lifeless body on the cement floor.

Vanessa picks Reagan up, they grab the keys, and head upstairs.

INT. BATHROOM. SAME DAY

Vanessa and Reagan are sitting in the bathroom cleaning the blood off themselves. Reagan holds a pack of ice to her face to stop the swelling.

Reagan looks down at her mothers arm that is still oozing profusely.

REAGAN

Let me take a look at that.

She grabs her mothers arm.

REAGAN

There has to be some type of first aid in this house. I need to hurry and patch you up so we can get out of here.

Reagan rummages through the cupboards and comes across a first aid kit. She takes out the stitches and sanitizes her mothers arm.

VANESSA

Ouch!

REAGAN

Stay still, it'll only hurt for a minute.

VANESSA

Where did you learn this?

REAGAN

Dad taught me.

Vanessa smiles and sniffles trying to hide her oncoming tears.

REAGAN

I'm happy you're here ma. Dad would have been proud of you.

She finishes stitching her up and they embrace one another. They head downstairs to leave the home.

INT. FRONT ENTRANCE. MID DAY

Vanessa carefully opens the curtains and sees the neighbours outside watching the home. They look confused, and suspicious. Vanessa crouches back down.

REAGAN

What's going on?

VANESSA

I have no idea.

Reagan looks through the window and sees the neighbors checking their watches and walking towards the home.

REAGAN

They know something isn't right. We need to leave.

They both get up, unlock the door and run as fast as they can to the truck. One neighbor sees them running and exclaims.

NEIGHBOR

(Confused)

They're alive... and they're running.

The neighbors charge the truck in pure anger. Vanessa and Reagan get in the truck just in time and lock the doors. The community members are pushing and hitting the truck, trying to tip it over.

Vanessa changes gears and speeds through the crowd, and down the road. In the rear view mirror a huge mob is seen still chasing the truck. Once they start getting closer to the gate, the security guard pulls out his gun and starts shooting at them. Vanessa pushes Reagan to the floor and Reagan covers her head. She steps on the gas, breaks the fence and runs over the guard.



Reagan lifts herself back up and sits in the chair. Vanessa looks at her to make sure she isn't hurt.

INT. TRUCK. AFTERNOON

The sun is shining, and the radio is playing "Hotel California" by the Eagles. They begin to head home, Reagan is looking straight ahead instead of listening to her headphones.

REAGAN

What now?

VANESSA

We take it day by day, as our true selves.

Reagan sits back and puts her feet on the dashboard. Instead of her mother nagging her about it, she remains silent and turns the music up.

Vanessa puts her window down, her hair blowing with the wind, rips her necklace off and throws it out the window.

The camera pans over the truck to see the landscape around them. The gated community is surrounded by a electric wall seperating them from the rest of the population.

FADE TO BLACK

The end.