

SWIM TO ESCAPE

REVIEW OF "EL ORDEN DE LAS COSAS"

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Marquitos.

El Orden de las Cosas is a short film released in April 2010, directed and produced by the brothers José and César Esteban Alenda. It starts with Manuela Vallés as Julia, Javier Gutiérrez as Marcos in his 40s, Mariano Venancio as Marcos in his 60s, Biel Duran as Marcos in his late 20s, Ana García as Olga and Junio Valverde as

The film introduces us to a woman, Julia, who lives practically in her bathtub full of water, her husband Marcos is constantly looking for his belt, a heirloom of his family that he inherited from his father. Julia always remains silent and does not help her husband to find the belt that he is desperately looking for. On one occasion he gets angry with her for not helping him and empties the water from the bathtub. When water decreases, you can see the wounds on Julia's naked body. When Marcos leaves the bathroom leaving her alone again the drops that fall from the tap increase and again the bathtub is filled again. Julia, trapped in her



bathtub, sees how time passes as her son grows up and how he realizes in silence of her suffering. The relationship between Marquitos and his father breaks down and he leaves home as he grows up,

because he no longer can bear to see the suffering of his mother. After the departure of Marquitos, Julia cannot get in contact with her son again and her husband prevents her on numerous occasions and makes excuses for her son why his mother cannot get on the phone when he calls. Time continues to pass and Marcos grows old and continues to look for his belt, She is still trapped in the bathtub and one day when Marcos' family came to visit, they reproached him for not doing the right thing to find the very important belt. When he finally manages to find it thanks to Julia, She does not want to give it to him and cries because of fear, they struggle and the bathtub fills with water until it overflows and completely floods the bathroom.

No scenes are shown where Marcos hit or mistreated his wife. With Julia's gaze you can already appreciate the mistreatment She suffers and the passive-aggressive way of talking about Marcos also gives indications and the toxic relationship they have and the



control he has over her. The bathtub in which Julia always remains symbolizes the relationship between them, She is trapped inside and does not want to leave out of fear. Every time the drops of water fall in the bathtub, the tension can be perceived and it is enigmatic since something bad is expected to happen. It's heartbreaking when the son realises his mother's suffering as a child, and when he is also older, he begs her to get out of the bathtub and go together. The fact that everyone grows and ages except Julia it is quite captivating. In the scene where the family visits, it can be seen how Marcos shows signs of doubt in his face of what his



brothers encourage him to do, this shows that he really regrets and that perhaps his behavior is due to the education he was given from The film reaches a climax when

Julia reaches the sea after the flood, the passage from the bath to the sea captures a certain atmosphere to Freedom, we bathtubs that appear on the shore of the island does not give the idea that there were other women like Julia without. However, these bathtubs are stained except Julia's, this could mean that the other victims did not have a good outcome.

A very positive aspect of the film is that it does not show violent scenes, which makes it quite airy for those sensitive to this subject. It is quite calm and harmonious. It's a skillful piece of filmmaking with audiovisual metaphors that make you realize what is happening and help you understand the film without using explicit words. It can begin with the protagonist adversely injuring the way in which She looks at her husband with fear and the despair that She feels because She cannot be in contact with her son. I definitely recommend the film.