

# EL ORDEN DE LAS COSAS

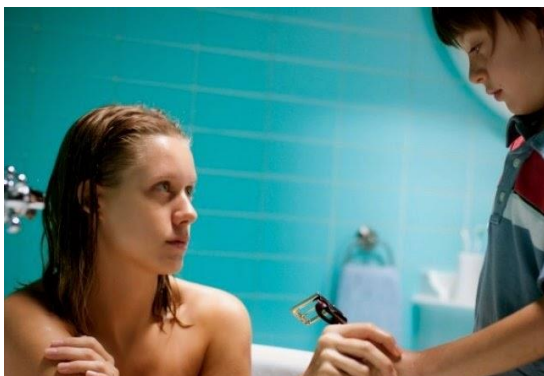
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## Review of El Orden de las Cosas

By Jaume Aran

El Orden de las Cosas is a drama short film released on the 12th of April of 2010 under the direction of the Alenda brothers. It was also produced and written by José Esteban Alenda and César Esteban Alenda. This Spanish drama deals about the gender violence and how a woman is abused all her life and forced to stay in a bathtub hiding under the water the belt her husband uses to hit her. The thespian is composed by Manuela Vellés (Julia), Biel Durán i Pascual (adult Marcos), Javier Gutiérrez (mature Marcos) and Mariano Venancio (old Marcos).

The plot of this short film tells us about Julia's life, who is married with Marcos. During the entire story, she is in a bathtub, and she never leaves from there. We can notice in the first minutes, when their son is in the bathroom, that Marcos is an abuser. The storyline goes around the belt, an inheritance Marco received from his dad. There is one scene repeated few times, where Marco tries to find his belt while Julia is hiding it. Firstly, he tries to find it with Marquitos, his son. Marquitos finds the belt, but when he sees the injuries his mom has, he decides to tell nothing. The time goes on and on, and Marco and Marquitos grow old, but Julia stays young. When Marquitos is older, he decides to leave home since he is against what Marcos does, but he doesn't try to face him. Marcos doesn't let Julia take her phone when her son calls her and he isolates her from any other person but him. Later on, Marcos family appear, letting us know that this abuse against the woman is a kind of a family tradition, since even two women think that Julia is a rebel. On the other hand, Marco's brothers tell him that he is weak because his wife ignores him and hides their dad's belt. Marcos is forced then to hit her, and that is the first moment the door is closed. A long time after, Marcos is old,



and he asks for the belt one last time. Julia, finally, decides to give him the belt, but it is tied to the bathtub. The water overflows the bathtub and fills the entire bath. Julia gets out of the water, but she is in the sea. This story ends with Julia walking away from the seashore, and reaching freedom.



It is a well-directed film due to all the meanings the objects have: the belt the violence and abuse, the ring remembering the old happy days, the water showing how the time draws on in drops, the phone the complete isolation, the plane representing those promises that never come true and the bath a prison and a way of control. This short is absolutely poignant, captivating and powerful, and it also makes you think a lot after seeing it. The actors and actresses are out of the ordinary because each one of the characters transmits a different feeling, according to the personality given mainly to Julia, Marcos and Marquitos.



El Orden de las Cosas is not a short that can be seen once or just for entertainment. You have to be conscious about all what it takes and makes you think and feel. It is amazing how El Orden de las Cosas can tell thousands of stories in just twenty minutes since lots of people can identify themselves with this story. I would recommend it to people mature enough to understand that this is not a single case in the world and lots of women suffer like Julia does every day.