

Jenelle Foster
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Title: PARCHED

Logline:

A first-time college freshman must overcome her fear of water, or succumb to the pressure of fitting in and making new friends, or else it may just cost her, her life.

Synopsis:

This is Giselle's first time in college. She is nervous about making new friends and worries that her not knowing how to swim will have an impact on her ability to connect with her class. Despite her doubts, her mom reassures her that she will be fine and they embark on a three-day road trip from California to Washington, D.C. Her mom helps her get settled in before heading back to her hotel, allowing Giselle to get to know people. Giselle doesn't hesitate to attend a mixer for her class, where she meets a group of friends who have similar interests as her. Some of the kids in the group are from the area and talk about fun places they can go to throughout the semester. Kyle, who can be obnoxious yet outgoing, suggests they break into a haunted water park. The rest of the group excitedly agrees, but Giselle is nervous because of her fear of water, and not knowing how to swim, but chooses to hide it. Once at the park, Kyle turns on all the operations of the park and does not hesitate to ride one of the slides. He slides down the slide, but never comes out. The park comes alive and grows furious by the trespassers wreaking havoc and doing anything possible to stop them from escaping. The park begins to flood and Giselle must think quickly, as it is a matter of life or death.

Treatment:

This short film starts with the introduction of the main character, Giselle. The audience learns that she is from California and is moving to the DMV area to begin her first year at college. She takes a break from packing her room up and starts scrolling through social media where she finds posts from her school promoting activities that will take place the week before classes start, also known as "Freshmen Week." Giselle's mom comes in to check on her and she expresses her concern about the type of activities that are planned - water-related activities. Giselle does not know how to swim and her mom reassures her that she will have fun regardless and she is sure there will be other things to do.

We see a montage of Giselle's move-in day from her starting the 3-day long road trip to her making it to her new dorm and taking in her new home and space. She says bye to her mom, who is staying in a nearby hotel. Rather than continue to unpack and decorate her dorm, Giselle is eager to go out and meet new people.

She attends a freshman mixer and is quick to find her "group." The group of eight spends time talking about their hobbies and what brought them to where they are. The mixer dies

down so the group decides to hang out in a lounge. Three of them went to high school together and grew up in the area. They talk about things to do in the area and one of them, Kyle, brings up a haunted waterpark. The other two are hesitant to tell the rest of the group about it, but Kyle ignores them and continues the story. Someone else jokingly suggests that they break into the park. Kyle encourages them to actually do it and the group agrees to break in. Giselle is very reluctant to but she does not want to kill the mood and follows them.

Once at the park, Kyle turns on the lights and water to the park. He then runs toward the biggest and deathliest-looking waterslide in the park and urges everyone to follow. The rest of the group is hesitant because of its appearance, but Kyle proceeds up the stairs and down the slide. As he slides down, there is an exaggerated roar from the slide after a few moments of silence, nothing, Kyle does not come out. The group is concerned. All of a sudden, the park comes alive.

Water shoots out from all the slides and the park begins to flood. The group is terrified and attempts to spring back through the gate where they entered, but the speed of the starving crowd of water catches up to them and they are forced to start swimming. One by one they disappear into the sea of water and the screams are no more.

Giselle knew she wouldn't be able to outrun the water so she ran up the same slide Kyle did since it was the highest and she had the highest chance of avoiding the water. The aggressiveness of the wind kicks the water up making it hard for Giselle to keep her balance. She slips and falls down the opening of the slide. She lets out a loud shriek, that begins to faint. As she is sliding down and her voice is slowly disappearing in the background, while the water in the park is simultaneously lowering. The park releases a final loud "gulp" before the lights and the water of the park shuts itself back off.

THE END