

MOTHERS DAY

A SHORT FILM – FINAL VERSION

Written by Gaylene Barnes

Laura is the mother of seven year old Katy - a little girl brutally raped and murdered. Her child's killer was never found, and so Laura seeks her own justice and revenge through violent vigilante action. She downloads a list of local sex offenders from the 'Sex Offender Register' on the internet - and the killing begins....

MOTHERS DAY is a compilation of seven of these vigilante murder scenes. Each sequence is real-time and filmed from her point of view. Although we do not see the assassin until the final murder, we are privy to what she sees, and what she says, and how she kills ... At first she is nervous, frightened, unsure – killing for her first time. But as she becomes more familiar with the terrain of violence, she grows more and more brutal and sadistic.

A story about how a woman's journey into violence changes her forever ...

“Child of Grief, Angel of Wrath”

VICTIM ONE

NAME: John Arnold Gilmore

FILE: Convicted Pedafile. Molested 16 children over a 20 year period. Served 6 years in prison. On parole.

CHARACTER: Lonely old man, broken after years in prison – mostly solitary confinement. Has an unkempt house and appearance. Suspicious of strangers.

NIGHT. EXT/INT. OLD VILLA: An old mailbox / Laura looks up at an old villa with overgrown driveway / she tiptoes up path and dials a number on a cellphone / man answers / “Hello?” / “Mr. John Gilmore?” / “Yes? Speaking.” / she walks up path through a gate / knocks on door / waits nervously / changes mind / backs away from door / door opens / man exits angrily / he has a phone in his hand / “Where are ya ye brats, leave me alone...!!” / she lifts the gun / he sees it and tries to shield his face / she shoots him in the raised arm / he falls backwards / she screams / he is groaning with a splattered arm / his body convulses / she is shaking / she points the gun at his chest and shoots him again / Laura cries / she pushes him with toe of foot / she asks “are you ... is he... dead?” / he doesn't move / he gargles blood from his mouth / she bends down to touch him / she is repulsed / she backs away from doorway / runs back down path / bends over to vomit at the fence.

VICTIM TWO

NAME: Tommy Sione

FILE: Convicted with four others for part in gang rape of three 10-12 year old girls. Served 3 years. Released.
CHARACTER: Gang affiliations, history of violence from childhood. Tough, hard. Facial tattoos.

NIGHT. EXT. GREY BLOCK WALL ON STREET: Laura hides beside a corrugated fence near a bush / she breathes quickly / she fiddles impatiently with the shotgun / she looks at a folded bit of paper with a photo of a tattooed man on it / she hears voices / she hears steps / she sees a man step out onto the footpath / he is wearing a patched leather jacket / he stops to light a cigarette / she sees his face – it is not the man she is looking for / he walks past her / he looks her up and down / ...he moves on / she steps back into the shadows / she hears steps / another man steps out onto the pavement / he walks into the light / she sees his face / it is the man she wants / she lifts the gun and aims it at him / he hears her and turns to her / he grins and laughs at her / “what-cha doing bitch?” / he rushes at her threateningly / she fires two shots straight into the man’s chest / he falls over on his back / she walks over to him / he is gargling and choking / she gives him a small nudge with her foot / he reaches out and grabs her ankle / she screams in fright and falls over onto the road / he holds on tight / she struggles free / he chokes / she hears voices inside the fence / she runs at speed for the car / she leaves.

VICTIM THREE

NAME: Frederick Sinclair

FILE: Convicted for Trading Child Pornography. Served 4 months imprisonment. Currently on parole.

CHARACTER: Harbour’s dangerous fantasies, has a history of bizarre sexual activities, currently unemployed – since trial. Previous employment at an internet development company. Few friends, loner. Lives alone in a barren house. Needs psychiatric intervention, but is not acute enough to gain attention.

NIGHT: INT: DERELICT HOUSE: Laura stands at a mailbox with the number 1031 / a downbeat street - a creepy house / she steps onto the porch / approaches the door / she raises hand to knock at the door / the door is already open / she quietly steps inside / she creeps down the hallway / she hears keyboard tapping / she gently pushes opens a door / she peers inside / a lonely light is on in a far room / inside a man is working at a computer / he is engrossed / the floor creaks loudly where she is standing / he briefly turns around to check out the noise / he doesn’t see her / he turns back to the computer / she goes into the room and quietly creeps up behind him / she looks at the screen / he is downloading a movie “ftgirl8.mov” / the download icon obscures an explicit picture of a young naked body / she lifts her shotgun and thrusts it at his head / he is startled / she says “It’s a gun - don’t move - bastard” / he begins to raise his arms / “what the fuck-!” / she fires the gun / his blood, brains, bits of skull, and eyeballs splatter all over the

computer monitor / the downloaded movie starts playing [Belgian male v/o] “Little princess...” / Laura becomes excessively angry / she pushes the dead faceless body onto the ground / she picks up a cricket bat and whacks the monitor / it fizzles and burns / she bashes the computer to pieces / she screams “fuckin’ bastard – die – you bastard – fuck you!!!” / she lifts up the table and turns it over / she smashes the printer, shelving, etc / she destroys a VCR on the table / debris flies everywhere / she stomps on his videos / she continues to rage.

VICTIM FOUR

NAME: Maui Templeton

FILE: Convicted for rape of 9 year old girl. Served 3 years of a 7 year sentence. Currently on parole.

CHARACTER: Middle class Maori, plumber, builder etc. Healthy, Occasional heavy drinker. In midst of house renovations.

MODEST BRICK HOUSE. EXT/INT. EARLY DAWN: A photo of a 6-7 year old child / brown pigtails / toothless smile, bright eyes / an inscription reads “Katy – miss you.” / Laura is sitting in a garden in twilight / she puts the photo of Katy back in her jacket pocket / she clenches her fists / breathing heavily / she walks up short path to a door / she knocks at door / the door opens / a sleepy man in pyjamas says “yeah?” / she says “Maui Templeton?” / he says “yeah?” / she lifts her gun and fires two shots directly into his chest / the man is thrown against the back wall and slumps to the ground / she doesn’t wait to see him die / she leaves.

VICTIM FIVE

NAME: Simon Godfrey

FILE: Convicted of 25 counts of molestation of young boys at a Youth Club. Served 3 years. Released.

CHARACTER: Business class white suit. Smarmy, busy, working hard.

DRIVEWAY FLASH HOUSE. EXT. DAWN: Laura leans against her car waiting / then she saunters up a cobbled path / she hums a tune “This old man” / she kicks away a dog that bounds over to meet her / she sees a man in a suit leaving his house / he is holding a briefcase and is on his cellphone / he walks briskly to a late model car / he sees her and smiles / he calls out “hello?” / he says on the phone “hang on 2 secs” / she walks up to him with her right hand extended “Hi. Mr Godfrey?” / he takes her hand and shakes it / “Yes? And who do I have the pleasure of...?” / “I’m Laura ... its really nice to meet you.” / she thrusts a large knife into his lower stomach with her other hand / she twists it around / she pulls it out / he falls away from her / she leans back and lets him drop to the ground / his intestines sprawl out of his stomach / the cellphone rolls out of his hand / he gasps “What ...are you ...doing!? Why?!! Fuck...aahh..” / a woman’s voice on the cellphone is shrieking /

Laura turns away and walks slowly to her car / she hums “oranges and lemons”...

VICTIM SIX

NAME: Agnes Lovell

FILE: Sexually molested and abused her disabled daughter for 7 years. Served 7 years. Released.

CHARACTER: Large white woman on a meager income. Disturbed.

PENSIONER FLAT. EXT. MORNING: Laura sleeps on the steering wheel of her car / she is roused by movement out the window / a woman with a plastic bag of shopping is pulling her mail out of a letterbox / Laura watches her / she picks up her list of sex offenders / she crosses off the names of victim 4 and 5 with red lipstick / she is tired / there is only one name left / she reads out the crimes of victim 6 / “*Agnes Lovell – Sexually and physically abused mentally disabled daughter for seven years, from the age of 6 until she went to hospital at 15. Lovell received a 10year sentence, served 7. Back in community and has access to other daughters. Victim died of complications three years later.*” / she looks at Agnes walking clumsily down the path / Laura looks at the a bloodied and broken cricket bat beside her rifle on the seat beside her / she picks it up and quietly gets out of car / she follows Agnes down the path / Agnes stops beside the porch to get her keys out of the pocket / Laura pounces on her in a fury / she swings the cricket bat across the top of her head / the surprised woman falls down onto the porch in extreme pain / blood pours down her face / laura smashes the bat down hard on each arm / on her bare legs / she strikes the bat down all over Agnes in a fury / the woman is crying in terror and tries to crouch away into the corner of the porch / laura leans over her slaps her in the face “you want some of this? some of your own medicine? Where... on the legs? The chest? Where won’t I see the bruises?? Ahh .I know ... the feet....!” / she beats Agnes’s bare feet with the cricket bat / Agnes cries in terror and pain / she cannot move her arms or legs / .. “stop it .. please..” / Laura stands up and takes out the shotgun / she says “OK” / Laura points the gun at Agnes’s bloodied face / woman painfully raises her broken arms to her face / Laura points gun at chest and fires / Agnes is dead / Laura slowly backs away from the sight of Agnes’s bloodied body / fade to black.

VICTIM SEVEN

NAME: Jim Meyer

Innocent.

CHARACTER: Blue overalls, working family man in scrap metal yard.

SCRAP METAL JUNK YARD. EXT. MORNING:

1. DELUSION (Denial) The morning sun is shining / she stumbles out the door of car / wildflowers grow nearby / she picks one flower and raises it to her face / she hears her daughter crying faintly in the distance “mummy, I want my mummy” / Laura stumbles speedily towards a rusty heap of metal // “it’s all right sweetie – I’m coming!!” / at the bottom of the heap are the remains of a crime scene / “police line - do not cross” tape lies crumpled and overgrown / forensic marks (of blood splatters) on nearby rusty boilers and scrap metal are faded now / she looks down at the soft green grass / it is the place Laura’s daughter Katy was murdered / Laura places the wildflower gently on the grass with her bloodstained hands / Laura is delusional / with her hands she traces an imaginary face of her daughter, wiping back her hair, kissing her cheeks, drying her daughter’s tears / Laura says lovingly “don’t cry sweetie, mummy’s here, everything’ll be ok.” / Laura lies down beside her imaginary daughter / she says “just shut your eyes, luv, go to sleep.” / she turns around to face the clear blue sky / Laura shuts her eyes.

2. BEATING (Anger): she opens her eyes / there is a man above her / “are u alright lady?” he asks / he has a wicked face / the face of rape / is it the face that Katy saw in her last terrifying last minutes? / Laura leaps to her feet / her hand is on a rusty pipe / she smashes the pipe onto the side of his head / he falls over onto the grass / she pummels his head with the pipe / over and over / his head is blood / the man screams “stop.... what.... help...” / she whacks his hands and head / eventually he stops moving / eventually she stops hitting / she steps back from the bloodied unrecognizable body / she is shaking / she looks at the man in horror / he is on kathy’s ‘spot’ / she pushes him off / falling backward into the boiler / she spiderwalks slowly backwards / picks up her gun / she bangs into the mirror and turns around to face the mirror.

3. CONFRONTATION (Horror) she sees the blood on her face -the blood on her hands / her face, Laura’s face, is covered in spots of blood, her copper blonde hair is matted with blood / her long designer coat and white blouse are splattered with blood – dried and fresh / Laura is shaking with horror as she takes out a tissue to wipe it all off / she moves her face closer and closer to the mirror / her bloodied face consumes the mirror / she viciously wipes away the blood from her cheeks, her forehead / she looks even closer in the mirror – deep into her wide blue-green eyes / deeper / her eyes are EMPTY

4. THE NOTHING (Emptiness) she backs away [but the POV shot does not go with her] / the mirror watches her [we watch her] / she stares vacantly at the mirror as she expressionlessly backs away / Laura raises her gun to the mirror [she raises her gun to us] / she shoots the mirror [she shoots us] / the mirror explodes into a hundred fragments / the image of Laura disappears with each sliver of glass – slowly twisting as each fragment plunges through the air until there is only black.

ROLL CREDITS on BLACK

Music

“Oranges and Lemons”