

DANCER IN THE DARK, a film by Lars Von Trier

Summary of the film :

Selma is a Czechoslovakian immigrant, a single mother working in a factory. She suffers from a genetic disease which has made her blind over the years. So that her son Gene doesn't go through the same predicament, she has been saving up a lot of money to afford surgery. One day though, she gets fired from the factory and is now jobless. Bill (her neighbour who is a police officer) steals the money saved by Selma. She discovers it and decides to go and ask for it back.

What is the scene going to deal with?

1. ? The love of a mother for her kid
2. ? The fight between Selma and Bill to get the money back
3. ? Friendly relationships in an American neighbourhood
4. ? The unemployment of immigrants in the USA

Extract = "But I can't do that, Bill" ---> Match the following sentence with its correct beginning.

... that's why she can't wait until the end of the month to get her money back.

1. ? Selma is really depressed...
2. ? Selma has decided to pay the doctor in the afternoon...
3. ? Selma is blind...
4. ? Selma loves her son...

Extract = "I can't save up more money" ---> Match the following sentence with its correct beginning.

... that's why she can't save up more money.

1. ? The box where she put her money was full...
2. ? Her appointment with the doctor is at the end of the month...
3. ? She has recently been fired from her job...
4. ? Her son Gene is really sick...

Extract = "I can't count the money now but I trust you" ---> Match the following sentence with its correct beginning.

... that's why she decides not to count the money.

1. ? She is afraid of Bill's reaction...
2. ? She knows exactly the sum which was in the box...
3. ? She is too tired...
4. ? She is blind and it would take her too much time...

At the beginning of the scene, what does Selma think about Bill's intentions?
Choose the correct answer and write it in your lesson copy books.

1. ? She believes Bill plans to kill her
2. ? She thinks Bill intends to call back-ups (renforts)
3. ? As for her, Bill will shoot to get the money back
4. ? According to her, Bill doesn't intend to shoot her because he is a good friend

Why does Bill shout? Complete the following prompt. (2 possible answers)
Write the two correct answers in your lesson copy books.

He shouts...

... in order to alert his wife.

... so as to scare Selma.

... for giving himself time to think.

... because he is in pain.

Why is Bill lying about Selma to his wife? Complete the following prompt. (2 possible answers)
Write the two correct answers in your lesson copy books.

He is lying ...

... because he needs to go to the supermarket

... in order not to give the money back.

... so as to pass for the victim.

... because he intends to commit a crime.

Find in the characters' speech some expressions or words proving that roles are inverted. Bill passes for the murderer whereas Selma passes for the victim. Use a highlighter.

Summary : Selma accidentally shot Bill in the leg as they were fighting for the money.

Bill : Will you just be my friend... and show some mercy, please, and just... kill me?

Bill's wife (Linda): Your handcuffs aren't in the car, Bill.

Bill : Just show some mercy, Selma, and just...

Linda, run. Run up to Miller's farm. Just run up to Miller's farm and call the station. Tell them to hurry. Run! Get up there! Go on to Miller's farm!

If you want the money... you're gonna have to kill me.

Selma : Don't do this to me. Don't do this to me.

Bill : I'm not letting go.

Selma : No.

Bill : Selma, shoot me! Just shoot me! Shoot me! Shoot me! Shoot me!!!

Can't you just stand up and pull the goddamn trigger!