



the daughter

a film by mary ann shane

the daughter

written & directed by mary ann anane
produced by nicole palermo and kelli reilly



logline: A day at the beach turns sinister when ten-year-old Lana spies her father's violent interactions with a young woman.

synopsis

50 words:

When Thomas takes his ten-year-old daughter Lana to the beach, he suddenly leaves her for a Girl sunbathing near them. Soon, Lana spies her father attacking the Girl. She runs over, but the attack is revealed to be false. And yet, Thomas and Lana both understand why she imagined it.

150 words:

On a lazy summer day, Thomas takes his ten-year-old daughter Lana to the beach despite Lana's mother's objections. Soon, into a game of tag, Lana's father leaves her for A Girl sunbathing near their towels. He strikes up a conversation, and as he gets closer and closer to the girl, Lana's anxieties start to rise. Then, suddenly, Lana sees her father start to pin the Girl down. She leaps up to go save the Girl, hitting her dad with a sand castle bucket. But in the haze of everything, the Girl is revealed to be okay. The attack, fully in Lana's head. In the aftermath, the Girl, sensing danger, leaves. When questioned by her father, Lana can barely look at him. Yet Thomas can read the disappointment and fear in her face. She sees him for what he truly is.

200 words:

On a lazy summer day, Thomas takes his ten-year-old daughter Lana to the beach despite Lana's mother's objections. Soon, into a game of tag, Lana's father leaves her for A Girl sunbathing near their towels. He strikes up a conversation, and as he gets closer and closer to the Girl, Lana's anxieties start to rise. Lana's attempts to distract herself with sandcastles don't settle her.

When Thomas grabs his sunscreen for the Girl, suddenly his hands are on the Girl. Touching and grabbing. Then pulling. And dragging the Girl down! Lana runs over with her sand castle bucket, yelling, 'Stop!' She hits her father with the bucket, trying to free the Girl. But then reality hits.

The Girl wasn't being attacked. Thomas wasn't attacking. Instead, he's dirty and pissed. He scolds Lana, who reveals she only wanted to save The Girl. But 'save her from what?' Neither of them answers. Thomas's attempts to explain to his daughter that he's a good man. Yet the damage seems to be done. Lana knows who he is.







director's bio: Mary Ann Anane is a Ghanaian-born, New Jersey-raised filmmaker. She is a 2026 AFI DWW+ Fellow, 2021 Sundance Screenwriters Lab Fellow, a 2021 SF Film Rainin Fellow, a 2020 Athena Feature Lab Fellow, and a 2020 Film Independent's Project Involve Fellow. Her projects have been invited to Gotham Market Project Week and have been listed on the Wscripted Cannes Screenplay Lists. *the daughter* is her directorial debut.

director's statement: The idea for this film came to me when one of my nieces turned ten. Despite my niece's young age and her childlike mind, she often got confused for someone older because of the perceived maturity of her body. This is quite similar to how I was perceived as a child and the effect it had on forcing me into adulthood faster than others.

It dawned on me while looking at my nieces, that there is a unique struggle to ensure a girl's childhood/innocence because of the certain violence girls and women go through. It is a discovery that many girls go through at various stages in their lives, and it often happens through those who are meant to love them.

This is the story of one girl's struggle.



technical specs

Runtime 00:06:43

Format: Digital

Aspect ratio: 16:9

Sound mix: Stereo

Language: English

Subtitles: None

Marketing Specs

Premiere Status: Austin Film
Festival 2025

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