Queen of Cactus Cove

*short film released December 11, 2005

Writers: Anna Christopher, Lindsay Stidham & Brenda Weiemair

Director: Anna Christopher

Characters:

Billie	Alia Shawkat
Achak	Alex Frost
Evelyne	Jill Andre
Mrs. Beal	Alice Ensor
Nina	Marilyn Rising

Synopsis:

This is a short film depicting the age relative concept of having to play against your best friend in a chess match which defines, in teenage eyes, her career.



Overview:

Inference and symbolism are primary to undertaking the hidden realties within this feminist & sexist crafted storyline. While I was left questioning the actual age of Achak, we watch teenage Billie rope in her skill having spent an assumable long time playing her best friend in practice for an upcoming Chess match. She, in flawed wisdom, believes that he is ignorant and incapable of beating her as she has seemingly won throughout the duration of their time spend playing against one another. In disbelief, right before the big match, he wins. Billie brushes this off knowing she has a grand track record and will conquer her opponents at the match. History, in her confident mind, will repeat itself. Question is will it??

Set:

Queen of the Cove is set in a hot territory in desert like environment. We see the long endless roadways upon leaving the confines of small town life. With this in mind, a private spot to practice Chess is within the lowered section of an empty pool which apparently is no long used as we believe it is hot and maybe summer. There is also the salon her mother owns, Frenchy's, in pink décor, roller skates and full with women. The two stand amidst a dynamic star image on the floor. This is a clear reminder of Frenchie from the movie Grease and the pink ladies gear.

The location for this career defining chess match is at the school gymnasium having her game play at the forefront on stage. Clearly she is the breaking point of the male female rivalry of such games as sport.

Her emotional state is envisioned through leaving Achak on the side of the road, angry, with a older male to what men traditionally do.

Lessons to Learn in game play:

She neglects her Pawns

He depends on his Queen

Chess is not just a male sport (game)

Your feminism is not detached when becoming (grooming) a Chess player

Generational sexism issues were apparent as she wore a pink stone around her neck and flashed her arched eyebrows at the salon. All to despite her blue color clothing which is traditionally a male color of choice.

Keeping one's emotion is prospective is necessary in game play as we watch Billie develop a resentment and attitude toward Achak after losing to him and realizing she's been deceived.

Imparted wisdom of an older woman inside the pool

