

# FISSURE

Created by: Wild Words



Feature Film Proposal

Genre: Adventure

Location: Namibia

Length: 100 minutes

## The Past is never really Buried

**When a 200 year old human phalanx is discovered among sabre-toothed cat remains in a fissure at a Canadian dig in Maropeng, South Africa, archaeologist Dr Gordon Belanger and his family discover that deep wounds take long to heal and that digging up the past comes with terrifying consequences.**

When Dr Gordon Belanger, a project manager for the Archaeological Foundation of Canada, is sent to South Africa to assess a supplementary funding request for a Canadian dig close to the famous Sterkfontein Caves, he sees it as a perfect opportunity to take his family on a working holiday and his new wife on the honeymoon they never had.

His wife Chloe, a professional photographer and 22 years his junior, is ecstatic about the chance to get away. She has been stuck at home, taking care of and home-schooling her 8 year old sickly stepdaughter Ella, who is still pining for the mother who allegedly discarded her. The idea of an archaeological dig and a subsequent trip to a game park spark her creativity, and Chloe invests heavily in a new camera and equipment.

Unlike Chloe, Gordon's teenage son Jake and daughter Ella are not keen on the trip. Jake is madly in love with the beautiful Olivia Rogen, daughter of famous sports broadcaster Robert (Bob) Rogen, and eight year old Ella is still pining after her mother, whom she hasn't seen since the acrimonious divorce of her parents some 8 months ago.

While they are preparing for the trip, Ella suffers vivid dreams and nightmares, where she is lured into a huge underground caving system by the dark figure of a man wearing outlandish clothing. Gordon tries to comfort her. They are not going to Sterkfontein, the area that Ella is apparently seeing in her dreams. The Canadian dig is above ground, and there is no chance of her getting lost. Once in South Africa, the fissures already in all the relationships deepen as various pressures take their toll on the Canadians. Jake, Olivia, Ella and their tour guide are hijacked and relieved of their phones and cash in Soweto. Gordon and Chloe are shocked to find Barbara, Gordon's ex-wife working on the dig whilst Ella is ecstatic to see her mother again. Jake's relationship with Olivia is challenged when she appears to fall head over heels in love with Muhle, the handsome young police constable handling their hijacking case.

With the finger bone discovery linked to a 200 year-old mystery, and powerful forces seemingly unleashed, the community demand that the dig is closed down. As Gordon and Barbara frantically work together to save the site, they grow closer again. Chloe fears her marriage is disintegrating. Also, Ella is becoming quite hostile toward her, and makes it clear that she wants her mother and father to reunite. Ella, whilst at a sleepover at Barbara's place near the dig, begins to sleepwalk and is found sitting next to the newly discovered fissure. As Chloe begins to uncover the history of the area, old wounds are opened and disturbed ancestors call for revenge.

NAMIB FILM

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