

"Anthropology" is an adventure drama exploiting the classical structure of old Hollywood "jungle films".

EMILY is an ambitious young woman, an anthropology graduate coming from a family with a rich academic tradition. Her grandfather was a famous explorer and her mother served as a member of the board at the Institute Emily works for. On top of that Emily is the proud daughter of PERCY, who disappeared in the amazon jungle delivering humanitarian aid when she was just 2 years old.

Following her father's footsteps Emily is about to take up the work of an anti-AIDS project coordinator in Africa when she gets tripped up by her mother who, quite reasonably, doesn't want her to go to Africa to fight AIDS. Getting into the argument with her mother Emily hears another shocking revelation: that her father wasn't lost in the jungle as she always thought but instead fled the family to be with his young lover TERESA whom he had met at one of Rio's shantytowns.

Plunging into total disarray Emily is lent a helping hand by her riddle-loving girlfriend CHLOE who suggests that they follow clues to find Emily's father.

Together they fly to Rio and, helped by Emily's step-father's playboy friend, find a bizarre TV recording from 25 years ago, which suggests that Percy might team up with Teresa to create an intentional community for the young impoverished girls on a small island off the coast of Guaratiba, an isolated township in the state of Rio.

Arriving in Guaratiba, Emily and Chloe meet a flock of fairly grown-up girls and their unofficial leader - the exotic beauty ADELA - who happens to be Teresa's daughter. Adela tells them the heart-breaking story of how Percy's noble undertaking went all wrong turning the girls into "ladies of pleasure" controlled by local police chief MARCELO, driving Percy to an apparent suicide, leaving Teresa behind bars. Now as the ladies are getting old and the new highway is about to bring floods of tourists to his township, Marcelo wants to get rid of the ladies and profit on selling the island which used to be their natural habitat.

Appealing to Emily's acute sense of justice (or her inability

to accept her father's epic failure), as well as using her sexual charms, Adela convinces Emily to take up the struggle against Marcelo.

Having failed with the academic methods of righting the wrong, Emily resorts to deceit and blackmail gradually trespassing her own moral borders. Meanwhile her girlfriend Chloe, spurred by jealousy, grows suspicious that Adela's tale is not to be taken at face value. When Emily's final push brings them to the discovery of Percy's secret safe box Emily gets a chance to triumphantly end her crusade and Chloe gets the confirmation of her worst fears.

The culmination finds them at a big charity event organized by Emily on the island for the benefit of Adela&co. As an orgiastic party unfolds Chloe is found dead from an overdose. Worried that she'll be the one blamed by the police and her family name will be forever smeared, Emily gets rid of the body.

Emily hurries to fly back home but on her way to the airport stumbles upon Chloe's evidence against Adela. She drives to Adela's house and finds Adela's mother Teresa, safe and sound. Concluding that Adela's story was all a hoax and holding Teresa responsible for the death of her father, Emily takes Teresa hostage and starts to knock the truth out of the poor woman. When she gets her confession she turns herself in to the police.

Thinking that it must be the end of her struggle Emily is driven by Marcelo and his aide to an old warehouse where they put her on a chair, lay a film of plastic under her feet and prepare to shoot her in the face, first taking their time to explain that her father was a venal, dissolute piece of garbage who was hiding on the island from his former CIA employers, that Chloe only played dead to get Emily to go back home, and that Marcelo, Teresa and Adela are one happy family who all worked hard for the good of their community. When she's about to get a bullet Emily is saved by her step-father's playboy friend turned CIA who kills Marcelo and his aide.

He sends Emily back home where she finally comes to terms with her family, takes up a position at her Institute and helps her miraculously survived friend Chloe to join fight against AIDS in Africa.