

ADAT

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## **About the author**

My name is Evgeny Baranov. I am graduate of VGIK (Gerasimov institute of cinematography), Moscow, the faculty of production. I began to work in screenwriting sphere at the 1st year of my education. That is why i started Master's degree of screenwriting in the studio of Yuriy Abramov after graduating from the faculty of production. Also, my stories were published in several literary magazines.

Student works (short films):

«Ada», director- Ulyana Kurilina, studio of I. Grigoryev

«Rock», director - Ivan Shahnozarov, studio of V. Hotinenko

«Rack», director- Ivan Orlenko, Moscow Film School

## **Adat**

### **Logline**

David turns 18, he lives with his mother and sister in Moscow. His father, who lives in the Caucasus, comes on the eve of David's birthday. His father forces him to kill a man (family vengeance), otherwise David goes against the family and ancestral traditions.

### **Synopsis**

David lives with his mother Aglaya and younger sister Sonya in Moscow. David has met his father few times. He lives on the Caucasus and provides his family with money. David turns 18. Father comes on the eve of his birthday at night. He says, that the next David's day will be hard, but doesn't explain why. Next morning David goes to the University, he listens a lecture about blood feud. The discussion of this theme turns into conflict between David and Seva, who protects nationalist views. David's girlfriend Tamara supports Seva, she has the same opinion. Students start to argue and the professor kicks Seva. David says goodbye to his friends after the lecture and they decide to meet together after family celebration.

When he comes around the corner, Seva and his friends grab David, drag him to the University yard, beat him and run away. David comes home with bruises. He sees father, sitting in the room with strangers. His father is disgruntled, he thinks, that David embarrasses him, because he can't fight back. Father tells David, why he has come. There was a rebellion of highlanders against Soviet authorities in Svanetiya in the 1938. David's ancestor was murdered by Soviet commissar. According to traditions the first man born from wife of murdered side has to revenge and David is the first man born since that murder. Now he has to make "Adat" - the ritual of vendetta. They present David a ritual gun, give him the hotel address, where he can find Artyom Cockcyi, a descendant of Soviet commissar. They say that police knows, that "adat" is more important than laws for highlanders. So, David doesn't need to worry about consequences. David can't believe it, he escapes to his friends' party. He tells his friends about this story. They say, that it's just a kind of test from his father. David gets drunk, shows his gun, his friends make selfies with it. David goes to dance with his girlfriend and forgets his phone. His father calls several times, one of David's friends tells David's father address of the party. Father comes to the party, David tries to hide in the closet. His father grabs him and takes him home. David wakes up and asks his mother to support him. However she says that Adat is the most important thing in their life and she is

happy to meet David's father. She doesn't want to live without her husband and ask David not to contradict his father. David tries to call his girlfriend, but she doesn't pick up the phone. Father walks with Sonya and says: no matter that she is 11, she is stronger than David. In the toy shop she asks father to buy her a toy gun.

In the evening father comes back home with Sonia. He says that he wants to go for a ride with David and to talk. On the way, the father tells that he grew up without parents that's why he understands that there is nothing more important than clan ties and family.

Father drops David off next to the "DK" ("house of culture"), where teenagers from the local boarding school for orphans dance. David gets out of the car and father immediately leaves. There are a lot of children around David, they begin to bully him, he takes out a gun. The hooligans start to make excuses, they tell that David's father asked to make him angry so that "blood become evident". David asks local people to drive him back to Moscow. He does not want to go home and decides to go to his girlfriend Tamara.

David comes to the girl and finds out that she is with Seva, he again takes out a pistol, points it at Seva. He whines and begs David not to kill him. David holding back the tears leaves him and goes outside. He does not know where to go and finds the address of Artem in his pocket. He decides to go to his hotel.

David comes exactly at the time when Artem tries to hang himself. David saves his life and find out that Artem, like David, is the first man in his family since that murder. Before him only women were born. He is a violinist who is almost deaf due to the illness, he walks with a hearing aid. The guys decide to go to the village where the murder took place and apologize for their forefathers. David remembers from childhood the road to this place. David decides to go home firstly, his sister Sonya wakes up and says that she also wants to go, because she is able to protect David, because she is more a man than he is. David removes the dummy of a saber from the wall and breaks with it father's car. Then they go by train to Vladikavkaz. Almost the whole of their wagon is occupied by military recruits. They discuss some music with them, they say that they go to some kind of exercise. David argues with Artem.

They arrive at the station in Vladikavkaz. David calls his mother and says that everything is fine, Sonya is with him but mother reports that his father did not spend the night at home. David is sure that he went after them. They take a taxi to the nearest mountain town, to the place of murder on the way, there is a hostel. In the hostel they meet some foreigners who travel to wild places after their graduation. They go for a walk with them. David again argues with Artem and they fight. During the fight Artem's hearing aid breaks and he does not hear anything. After that they meet military guys and play football with them. After the football match Artem and David make peace. At night they organize an international party where David falls in love with Sabina from France. They agree that he will deal with all his stuffs now and after they will see each other again.

They reach the cemetery and their bus does not go further. Artem buys from a local old man an old motorcycle with a sidecar. The guys go to the cemetery and find the graves of their forefathers, they are surprised that their graves are several meters apart.

David meets the keeper of the cemetery Amiran, who agrees to take them to the altar where the murder happened. Amiran sits down on a single-seater handmade car, the guys on a motorbike ride after him. When they arrive David sits down next to Artem who begins to play violin. Father comes to the mountain, greets Amiran, turns around and sees that Sonya is holding a gun pointed at him. David stands up and takes the pistol from the children's hands. He shoots at father. The

father says that there are blank cartridges. Artem stops playing. He says that he heard a shot the hearing returns to him. David throws a pistol from the mountain. There are visible explosions and shots near the mountain. Amiran says that the war began.