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## Lizard

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## Lizard

### Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Lizard* (2020), directed by Akinola Davies.

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### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



**Lizard (2020), dir. Akinola Davies**

A young girl, Juwon, who lives in Lagos, Nigeria, finds herself expelled from her Sunday school classroom. While waiting to return to the classroom, Juwon sees an agama lizard. She follows the lizard on a journey into the Heaven's Gate Mega Church. Here she discovers what appears to be a group of women packaging money for the use of the clergy, money that has been taken from many people who cannot afford to make their contribution. She then comes across one of the ministers behaving inappropriately with one of the parishioners. Later she sees the lizard again, but this time the lizard is as big as the church. Finally, the church service is over and people begin to leave. Juwon gets in the car with her aunt to go home, but the car is stopped by a group of bandits and the passengers are robbed. One of the robbers seems to recognize Juwon. He nods to her and the robbers let Juwon's family go. Since the robber is masked, it is not clear whether he is related in some way to her church or her religion. If the robber is related to the church, it is one more example of the hypocrisy of the church. There are images of Jesus everywhere, indicating that Jesus is watching all of this bad behavior, maybe with great sadness.

I take it that the lizard stands for the truth. Juwon follows the truth and discovers that there is a darker side to her religion. When Juwon encounters the huge lizard by the church, the size of the lizard suggests that the truth is bigger than and more important than one's religion.