

40 Days and 40 Nights

Description:

After a brutal breakup, Matt vows to stay celibate during the forty days of Lent. During this time, he finds the girl of his dreams and struggles to build a relationship with her, until a surprising twist at the end of the 40 days. More information about the movie can be found on IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0243736/>

Discussion questions:

- Our ideas of gender roles—how men and women are expected to behave—often influence the response that male survivors of sexual assault receive. What is the image of males that is portrayed in this movie? Do you think that is accurate?
- What Nicole does to Matt meets the legal definition of rape in Massachusetts, but Matt does not view his experience as a rape. Why do you think this is? Why might it be difficult for Matt to talk about his experience in this way?
- Although Matt does not describe his experience as a rape, what are some of the feelings he experiences afterward? How might these be similar to or different from female survivors' experiences?
- If Matt was your friend and described this scenario to you, how might you suggest ways that he could find resources to discuss those feelings?
- Statistics suggest that the large majority of assaults of both men and women are perpetrated by men. In this case, Nicole is the perpetrator. Do you think scenarios like what happened to Matt might be under-represented? Why or why not?

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