

Maria Full Of Grace

Movie Character Analysis

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Abstract

In this film “Maria Full of Grace” directed by Joshua Marston in 2004. It was based on a daughter filled with responsibilities. The main character is the daughter in this film her name is Maria and was seventeen years old. She had to provide for her family and maintain a love relationship, but it all erupted. Maria lived in a rural area of Columbia and it was difficult for her to provide for her mom, grandma, and her sister that has kid. From this film you can see how Maria social status was affected and how her body changed created a different emotion in her. This movie shows how Maria work environment and personality start to change throughout the movie (Marston, 2004).

Main Body

Maria was working in a flower plantation that gave her no respect. The flower industry are most known in undeveloped countries such as Columbia. Her work uniform was a blue denim jumpsuit with a yellow apron and a pair of gloves . When doing this job a lot of chemicals are exposed such as different pesticides. “One benchmark study, revealed that Colombian flower workers can be exposed to 127 different chemicals from pesticide use. Pregnant women exposed to pesticide chemicals have high rates of premature births and miscarriages”(Hargan,2015). It also includes that the business was male dominated. In a male dominated business alot of sexual harassment and mistreating has happen (Hargan,2015). In this film the business was run by a male that had no respect for women. Maria eventually end up quitting after she asked permission to use the bathroom and was denied

It leads up to her and her boyfriend having a discussion on her being pregnant. They had no love in their relationship to create a family. This was one of Maria's fear which was not having a job and having a worthless father. She did not want to have a remake of her sister. She breaks off her relationship and ends up meeting up with a new guy that offers a new opportunity to getting money. This is when the drug deal comes in. Maria's task was to swallow couple drugs to take it to New York. She was promised to get 10 million dollars. Her friend Blanca ends up getting involved and met a new girl named Lucy that has been in the business (Martson, 2004).

The way the process works is that there is medicine you take to slow down your digestion and then you start taking the drugs. Then someone lays you down and rubs your belly to fix it in place. Once they get to the location they need it to come out their rear end (Navarro, 1995). "A drug mule can swallow up to 120 balloons and during their journey, they take medication to inhibit bowel movement. Once they have reached their destination, they are fed laxatives and the balloons pass through their bodies, authorities said" (Carbonell & Vergara 2017). "For three days, all the 40-year-old Colombian businessman did was swallow pellets of heroin wrapped in condoms, 70 in all, washing down each one with "something green" to numb his throat. He was then given a plane ticket and the telephone number of a contact to call upon arrival, and set on his way" (Navarro, 1995). The article explains that the heroin was wrapped in a condom so it can't be exposed to the body. If it is, the exposure can kill you (Navarro, 1995). This is what happened to Lucy in the movie. She started to feel sick because it was exposed in her body.

In the film Maria was very simple. She was first shown to be a typical careless teenager but as the film goes on you see how she takes on her responsibilities. Maria was a casual

teenager that was always seen in a cardigan and a pencil skirt (shown in the photo below). Maria kept it simple throughout the whole movie. She wore no makeup and no jewelry. Maria body modification was her being pregnant and she did not change the way she dress but I do believe it change her attitude/personality. She was very pessimistic but by the end of the film her feelings starts showing which made her more optimistic. After Lucy (her business partner) death it came to her conclusion she can't work for something like that. In the whole movie Maria only thought about everyone else and not how she feels. But at the end of the movie she finally thinks about her baby well being and stayed in New York.



Maria Full Of Grace. [Photograph]. (2004). Retrieved from <https://www.imdb.com>

Maria Full Of Grace is a perfect title for this film because Maria was living in a poor condition and had multiple decision to make in her life. She played a figure in her family where everyone depend on. Maria being only seventeen years old she had different goals for her life.

For Maria it was not about materialistic it was about happiness. In the film it does not say it but it does imply it. Her happiness was her unborn child and she will not let the past replay in the future. The deeper meaning to the film is Maria never gave up. Maria being pregnant in the film and doing the drugs that was an big risk for her child but she lied about her condition to just make money. At the end her baby was doing just fine and she took some advice and stayed in New York to have a better life. She was definitely full of grace.

#### Conclusion

As you can see, the status of your life is a major role in your dress. From Maria personality, clothing and attitude you can tell she did not have much but she tried to create something on her own. From her low voice, to her casual looks and her wearing no jewelry it shows she was very simple. Her social status affects her which made her do the things she did. She striving for her family and eventually creating her own, she will go from being depressed to being more happy. The only part of the movie she really smiled was when she had a sonogram so you can tell where her happiness really relied.

## **Reference**

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