

MARRIAGE MOVIES – Date Night Recommendations

The Story of Us - see below

"The Story of Us" is a married couple's date movie. How do you STAY married? "The Story of Us" spells it out - staying married has to do with growing up, getting past the myths about marriage and taking the long-view. It's about whether marriage can survive our fantasies about marriage and our right to perfect, till-death-us-do-part romance. The movie is realistic AND romantic and that's no small feat.

The Descendants. It's the best movie dealing with extramarital affairs. In fact, this movie is unique in that it doesn't depict the affair itself at all. The affair has already ended when the movie begins, so it focuses strictly on the aftermath

The Notebook - An epic love story centered around an old man (James Garner) who reads aloud to an older, invalid woman (Gena Rowlands) whom he regularly visits....from a faded notebook.

The Thing About My Folks

After 47 years Mom (Olympia Dukakis) has flown the coop - a walk-away wife - leaving behind a vague note of explanation. Father (Peter Falk "Columbo") and son (Paul Riser) set off on a road-trip which gives them time to ponder what really goes on in any marriage and what could be changed if they were given the chance.

Family Man

Ups and downs between a husband (Nicolas Cage) and wife (Tea Leoni), but the moral of the story is that the family relationships that are built are far more important than the success and money earned in a life alone.

Match Point

Sometimes you don't know what you've got until you (almost) lose it. Or, the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the net. Or, I don't want the cheese, I just want to get out of the trap. As powerful as **Fatal Attraction** as an anti-infidelity movie.

Away From Her (2007)

"I never thought I'd be away from her". The incredibly strong bonds of a 44-year marriage that has reached soul mate status. Illustrates the loss and loneliness of losing a mate (Julie Christie) and the meaning of true love - wanting to sacrifice to make your mate happy. Some review it as a movie about Alzheimer's but I see it as being about the profound love, attachment, and sacrifice in a long-term marriage.

Knocked Up (2007)

Illustrates the universal Mars/Venus gender conundrums that in the end, boil down to what it's really all about – love, marriage, connection, babies. By the director of **40 Year Old Virgin**, a film that also presents a strong pro-marriage argument for holding out for – and appreciating – what truly matters. Strong language, drugs, sex.

"Knocked Up" may be about Seth Rogen's slacker coming to grips with fatherhood, but the movie also provides a painfully honest and absolutely hilarious look at a marriage on the rocks. Initially, Apatow stacks the deck in favor of Rudd's beleaguered, wisecracking husband, until you gradually realize there's a reason Mann's strong-willed wife is so angry all the time.

"Watching people stuck in communication black holes is painful in real life, but on screen it's really funny," Apatow says. "The male response is generally to shut down. I do. I run away when there's a problem. It's the classic conflict that people can't get past. Men wanting women to act like men and women being mad at men for not thinking like women. It's pure comedy." The dynamic of this movie marriage may have already improved a few real-life unions, Apatow says. "I've had a lot of friends say the movie makes them either want to run home and be nice to their wives or it made them feel very guilty about the fact that they're like Paul Rudd and a little slow to rush home when work ends," Apatow says. "To which I say, 'Good. That's what I'm trying to get across. Be there for your wife.'"

Groundhog Day

Don Juan de Marco (especially for older couples)

Life as a House (2002) - Kevin Kline

My Life (1994) [death of a spouse, meaning of life & relationship]

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Shall We Dance?