

A MARRIAGE STORY

"That is the way it is"

Playing Age: 40+

Drama

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INT. LAWYER'S STUDIO - DAY

NORA, 52, a family lawyer, is explaining to her client NICOLE, 35, what she cannot say in court due to social expectations.

NORA

I'm gonna stop you there. When you do this for real, don't ever say that. People don't accept mothers who drink too much wine, and yell at their child and call him an asshole - I get it, I do it too. We can accept an imperfect dad. Let's face it, the idea of a good father was invented like thirty years ago. Before that, fathers were expected to be silent and absent and... unreliable and selfish. And we can all say we want them to be different. But on some basic level, we accept them. We love them for their fallibilities, but people absolutely don't accept those same failings in mothers. We don't accept it structurally and we don't accept it spiritually. Because the basis of your Judeo-Christian whatever is Mary, mother of Jesus - and she's perfect. She's a virgin who gives birth. Unwaveringly supports her child and holds his dead body when he's gone. And the dad isn't there - he didn't even do the fucking. God is in Heaven. God is the father and God didn't show up. So you have to be perfect and Charlie can be a fuck up and it doesn't matter. You will always be held to a different, higher standard. And it's fucked up, but that is the way it is.