

## Maria Full of Grace • R

"The first time I watched this movie about the young women who swallow drugs to smuggle them into the United States from Columbia, I was nervous about what to expect and worried that it would be full of bloody violence and other disturbing images. However, Maria Full Of Grace instead focuses on the personal side of these women, and most

of the movie is a moving story about their lives in Columbia and the kinds of situations that can lead them to make such a dangerous decision.

An especially heartfelt scene includes a conversation about unintended pregnancy

before marriage. This scene would be a good conversation starter with older teens, about family planning and waiting for marriage. The most disturbing scene is one death in a hotel room amongst the drug smugglers, but even that one is kept at an emotionally manageable level. I asked my teenager about the amount of foul language used in this movie (not much), and she said, "You can hear worse every day at the high school."

Recommendation: Watch the movie yourself first, but suitable for viewing with older teens, to help them understand more of the consequences of drug use, as well as open the doors to communication about many other important topics."



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