

TED

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Be careful what you wish for! That is the comic message underlying this odd movie about a little boy whose wish for a forever friend comes true, and the havoc that wish creates once the little boy grows up. Metaphorically, Ted uses this ruse to demonstrate how very easy it is to remain stuck in adolescence until one is forced to make a choice – grow up or grow old alone because a stuffed toy can't meet all your emotional needs. How attached we become to our childhood toys and what they represent to us. They keep us safe from storms and watch over us as we sleep. But should they suddenly animate, all hell could break loose and, in this case, it does.

Ted is one of the most politically incorrect creatures to ever hit the silver screen. He is offensive, vulgar, crude and outrageous. Just like most teenagers and men who never get over that stage of development. Getting high, slacking off and acting out never gets old with Ted. However, at heart, Ted is all about loyalty, friendship and honor. He is a true pal, buddy, friend that can be depended on to be there when you need him. Enter into the equation, the love of a smart, upwardly mobile woman who loves the little boy-man, but not his mascot, and you have the traditional love triangle with a twist.

Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis are very comfortable in their roles, playing against the acerbic voice of Seth MacFarlane who is the voice of Peter Griffin on *Family Guy* and the mastermind behind this movie.

Making choices between the friend you had as a child and the woman who represents your future is no easy task. *Ted* asks the question, "How do you do that?" The answers are more serious than the trailers would have you believe. Love is about acceptance and about taking on the things the other person loves as part of the package deal. Forcing someone to choose between old friends

and true love won't work out for anyone, but old friends can change and true love can tolerate more than it thinks it can.

Ted was a lot more entertaining than I expected. I was pleasantly surprised. It is a good date movie.

I give *Ted* four couches.

