

DISCUSSION GUIDE



The Girl Who Could Not Be Saved

Childhood Sexual Abuse, Repetition,
and the Specific Limits of Loving Her in
Forrest Gump

"Life is like a box of chocolates.
You never know what you're gonna get."

— *Forrest Gump*



*Jenny's story is about more than
choices—it's about trauma's long shadow
and the limits of love without healing.*



BEFORE YOU WATCH

- What do you know about Forrest and Jenny's relationship?
- How do you think early life experiences can shape adult relationships and choices?
- What does it mean to "love someone no matter what"? Are there limits?

AFTER YOU WATCH



- What emotions did the film bring up for you?
- What did you notice about the way others responded to Jenny?
- How did the film make you think differently about trauma and healing?
- What message do you think the filmmaker wants us to take away about love and limits?



FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS



- This film includes themes of child sexual abuse, substance use, trauma, and loss. Consider your child's readiness and offer support.
- Use the film as a starting point for conversations about boundaries, consent, and getting help.
- Remind children and teens: It is never your fault. There is help. You matter.
- If you suspect a child is being abused: believe them, keep them safe, and seek professional help.



If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out to a trusted adult or professional.



DEEPER QUESTIONS

- 1 Understanding Jenny's Story**
What evidence in the film shows the impact of Jenny's childhood sexual abuse? How does the film portray the long-term effects of that trauma?
- 2 Patterns of Survival**
What patterns do you see in Jenny's choices and relationships? How do these reflect common responses to trauma?
- 3 Love and Its Limits**
Forrest's love for Jenny is constant and unconditional. What can he offer her? What can't he offer? Why is his love not enough to heal her?
- 4 Responsibility and Blame**
How does the film depict responsibility for Jenny's struggles? Who is responsible for what happened to her—and for her healing?
- 5 Repetition and Revictimization**
In what ways does Jenny recreate unsafe situations? What does the film suggest about why survivors may return to harmful patterns?
- 6 Support That Can Help**
What kinds of support, resources, or treatment might have made a difference for Jenny? How are these different from what Forrest can provide?
- 7 Compassion Without Judgment**
How can we hold compassion for someone's pain while also recognizing harmful choices? How do we avoid blame and rescuing?
- 8 Hope and Healing**
What gives you hope in this story? How can we work toward a world where girls like Jenny can be safe, believed, and supported?



A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

We use "survivor" to honor the strength of those who have lived through abuse. Their stories are complex, and healing is possible.



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Understanding
minds.



Strengthening
families.



Raising
resilient kids.