Sarah Rexrode

The Woodsman

Walter was confronted with some trust issues from his family and coworkers. When they found out he was a convicted pedophile, his coworkers were quick to turn on him and his sister was hesitant to allow Walter to see his niece. Walter is also faced with the temptations associated with his pedophilia. Those temptations made it hard for Walter to try and start a new life and not commit child molestation again. I believe that sex offenders tend to have more difficulties than other criminals. It is not fair, because there are other crimes just as severe as sex crimes that do not receive the same amount of discrimination. I do see the justification of the discrimination though. A sex crime is seen as very personal and therefore a lot scarier in the eyes of the public.

One thing I thought the movie got wrong was that Walter was living by an elementary school. I’m pretty sure that convicted child sex predators are not allowed within a certain distance of parks and schools. So, Walter’s living situation seemed inaccurate to me. I do think the movie correctly captured that pedophiles will always be viewed in a negative light due to their sexual preference. I think the type of job he had also showed the struggles that offenders face when trying to find employment. Not many businesses will hire registered offenders, so job options are very limited for those people. Walter’s love life was a bit far-fetched in my opinion. Not many people are willing to look past a person’s criminal record when deciding who to date. The fact that Walter was able to get an accepting girlfriend so fast was strictly for plot reasons for the movie. Most offenders do not have that much ease. I believe pedophilia is a constant struggle. Someone can’t change their sexual preference on a whim. That desire will always be there no matter how hard you try to change or get rid of it.