

The ethical breaches in prince of tides



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Most films that portray any form of psychotherapy are full of examples of bad psychotherapy. The best example of this is in the film *The Prince of Tides*. It disrupts the boundary confusion and ethical boundaries between the client and psychiatrist when the psychiatrist (played by Barbara Streisand) begins an affair with the brother of one of her patients (Nick Nolte) his sister Savanna. The movie also explores the psychodynamic issues in a disturbed family and the rape of Nick Nolte as a little boy.

Nick Nolte portrays a middle aged man who is forced to look into his history when twin sister Savanna attempts suicide and is asked by her psychotherapist to tell her their family history. The character is caustic and bitter not wanting to remember any of his families terrible history which includes seductive relationship with his mother and a shared secret that is never spoken about. A hideous multiple rape by escaped convicts of the mother, brother, and sister.

Nick Nolte's character begins to tell the psychiatrist everything about these rapes which reverts him back into the thirteen-year-old boy who never spoke of it. Many would argue that Nick Nolte was raped again by the psychiatrist when he begins a relationship with his psychiatrist. The issues of dysfunctional family and fear of intimacy are also depicted in the film. Nick Nolte's character has an intimacy issue with his wife.

The newfound intimacy he finds with the psychiatrist allows him in the film, to eventually break out of his fear and become intimate once again with his wife. I would never recommend a therapist sleeping with a patient because it would damage and confuse the patient making him sink deeper into his

complexities possibly never to return. I would recommend as a therapist referring him to another psychiatrist who may better provide with the help he needs before making it worse.