

**THINK THE MOVIE ENOUGH IS
AN ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

THINK AGAIN!



While we applaud its sympathetic portrayal of an abused woman's attempts to escape the violence, the following inaccuracies are detrimental to domestic violence survivors:

MYTH #1: J. Lo would walk away a free woman after killing her batterer because "self-defense is not murder".

→ **FACT:** J. Lo probably would've been convicted of 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. In California, there are at least 70 women serving life for killing their batterers in self-defense. Thousands more are in prison for domestic violence-related crimes (such as failing to protect their children from the abuse, drug addiction as a coping mechanism, etc.), costing taxpayers \$25,607 to keep just *one* of them in prison for *one* year. These women never should've been convicted in the first place and should be freed.

MYTH #2: J. Lo's batterer is representative of most batterers—one-dimensional, obviously psychopathic jerks.

→ **FACT:** Many perpetrators of domestic violence have a public and private face: outwardly, they may be charming gentlemen, but in the privacy of the home they terrorize their partners. Because the batterer may only show his abusive side to his partner, her claims of abuse are often not believed by others.

MYTH #3: Survivors of domestic violence have the resources to flee to other states to escape the abuse.

→ **FACT:** Unlike J. Lo's character, few survivors have rich fathers who bestow upon them thousands of dollars to escape. **Fleeing to several other states to escape the abuse is not a realistic option for most.**

MYTH #4: J. Lo would not be charged with kidnapping for taking her daughter to another state.

→ **FACT:** Abused women who flee the state with their children can be convicted of parental kidnapping.

MYTH #5: Domestic violence is only physical abuse.

→ **FACT:** Domestic violence can also be economic, sexual, and psychological abuse. According to many survivors, the physical beatings are the most tolerable. Physical wounds heal, but emotional and psychological scars do not.

MYTH #6: Restraining orders are just pieces of paper.

→ **FACT:** In one study, 70% of women who had restraining orders said the violence stopped, 19% reported a decrease, and 11% said it remained the same or got worse.

If you are a survivor of abuse and need immediate counseling, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233), or WOMAN, Inc. at (415) 864-4722