

# Ethics After Hours



## Return to Zero

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### Summary<sup>1</sup>

Maggie and Aaron are expecting their first child, but the pregnancy doesn't go as expected and shortly before the delivery date they learn that their baby has died in the womb. The couple are devastated and Maggie becomes depressed. Grieving the loss of their unborn child, the couple struggles to heal and find a way to move on.

104 mins.

Director: Sean Hanish

Available on Netflix

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2538130/>

### Questions for Discussion

- What did you think of Maggie's initial reaction when she was told by the doctor that the baby wasn't moving and that there was no heartbeat?
- How do you think the doctor handled the situation?
- What did you think of Aaron's reaction when the social worker asked about whether they wanted a cremation or burial for the child?
- Maggie and Aaron had already pictured the future as a family with their child, and suddenly their dreams and expectations unravel when they learn that the baby has died. What are some of the different ways that health care providers, family members, and friends support the couple through the initial trauma?
- What are the differences in the ways that Maggie and Aaron grieve and how do you see that influencing their relationship?
- Family and friends struggle with how to react and what to say to Maggie and Aaron to show sympathy. Discuss Annie's approach at the baby shower and Robert's approach at the Thanksgiving dinner. Were they wrong in what they did?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for Aaron and Maggie to talk to each other about what happened?
- Maggie and Aaron are advised to spend as much time as they can with their baby after he is born. Discuss what this means for her ability to move on and for the decisions they make later on.
- Maggie and her mother have a conversation about what it means to lose a baby. What are your thoughts around the conversation?

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<sup>1</sup> Summary adapted from Wikipedia article [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Return\\_to\\_Zero\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Return_to_Zero_(film))