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Is Doubt Worth Watching?

Honest Review of Netflix's Acclaimed Korean Psychological Thriller

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When a series has a solid rating of 7.6 on IMDb, you would guess it must be super popular. But this Korean drama called 'Doubt' on Netflix is hardly well known

among viewers beyond those who have already watched it, maybe because it's still quite a niche viewing experience for global audiences.

It's a psychological thriller that shifts between serious cop action drama and domestic thriller throughout its runtime. And yes, it's a long runtime (more on that later).

The story revolves around Jang Tae-su and Jang Ha-bin, the lead characters of this series are father and daughter but only in name. Jang Tae-su divorced Ha-bin's mother long ago and dedicated his life to his profession as one of South Korea's top criminal profilers. Eventually it's revealed that the reason behind his sudden abandonment of the family was his doubts about his daughter.

He couldn't fathom the reason behind the accidental death of his infant son, and thus has always doubted his daughter's part in that tragedy. That's the reason why he couldn't trust his daughter and decided to walk out on them.

However, he is now back at their family home to be with Ha-bin, who has been grieving her mother's self-inflicted death. But Ha-bin is not in the mood to forgive and forget her father's betrayal of his family and his lingering doubts about her.

Surrounding this family drama is Tae-su's professional life, where he has to complete the handover procedures to two new police officers – Lee Eo-jin and Gu Dae-hong. This goes in parallel with their investigation of unidentified skeletal remains discovered in the nearby woodland. This investigation gets linked to another unsolved crime that took place near the same forested location, once Tae-su presents the crucial clue.

As they start profiling the list of witnesses and suspects, one thing becomes clear: Tae-su cannot keep his professional and personal life apart. Besides his old doubts about Ha-bin's role in her brother's demise, new doubts start creeping in once the police start connecting the dots between her and the runaway kids. As every clue points to her active part in this unfolding criminal drama, will Tae-su be able to clear his and others' doubts about his daughter?

It's absolutely insane to watch how this team puts together the pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle scattered through multiple people located within close proximity to each other. Even after finding the common clue connecting these seemingly different crimes, it's a game of cat and mouse till the real criminal is identified. It's

quite entertaining to watch how unspooling of this complex thread leads to unexpected consequences.

Coming back to the father-daughter melodrama and that super long runtime, both of which are interlined. Even in the midst of such an intriguing case, Jang Tae-su and Ha-bin find enough time to confront their emotional issues, address underlying dark thoughts, and rummage through the emotional baggages. This narrative runs parallel to the main storyline (or is this the main storyline??!!). It's taking precious screen time of the criminal investigations by going over their unshared past and unaddressed issues.

This comes at the cost of an extended runtime filled with countless long shots of the Jang family home façade, its labyrinthine interiors, and Tae-su's decisions disrupting the main investigations for next few episodes. After a time, this becomes repetitive, and serious viewers might get frustrated at the speed of this plot progressing.

This might be the major deterrent to watching this series in one go. It might be one of the reasons why the stellar acting of the ensemble cast and nuanced direction are not talked about much.

It's a brilliant idea to frame the fraught interactions between father and daughter like a criminal interaction devoid of any familial warmth and mutual reliance. This is the polar opposite of how Gu Dae-hong interacts with Kim's son by building a friendlier bond and developing trust from a father-figure perspective despite not being related. Similar parental conflicts are spread across this series, showing fraught dynamics among parents and children ultimately impacting their lives and the repercussions of their decisions.

Have you seen this Netflix series already? What are your thoughts on it?

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What are your thoughts?



Nadeem Ahmed he/him

4 days ago



It's absolutely insane to watch how this team puts together the pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle scattered through multiple people located within close proximity to each other. Even afte...

I haven't add this to my list but it's a good story as you put it. Hopefully in weekend



1



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