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In Search of the Truth- Monsters Season Two

Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story

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The house. The parents. The crime. Those brothers. And the humming in the background. Indeed its a chilling and complicated viewing experience.

I might be late to the watch party, but I have finally caught up with Monsters' second season on Netflix. Following the sensational first season, this latest season also highlights the story of monsters walking among society. The monsters in question here are none other than the infamous Menendez brothers.

Created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan for Netflix, this second season takes us back to that sensational crime with a dramatic flair. The production values are top-notch, ensuring that the 90s and early 2000s aesthetics are captured in perfect detail. It looks like a drive down memory lane by revisiting the Los Angeles of yore.

However, the first episode itself exposes the dark reality hiding beneath this glitzy background when the story of the Menendez brothers comes crashing down with the gruesome murders of their parents.

From here on, the series squarely puts back the focus on Lyle and Erik Menendez in an attempt to present their side of the story. Therefore, much of the series' run time is dedicated to their detailed testimonies given to their individual lawyers about the sordid family saga. According to them, this dirty secret at the heart of their family eventually pushed them to the extreme, and they decided to act on it. This is truer for Erik rather than Lyle, as viewers get a first-hand account of the hell he has endured for the major part of his life, ultimately leading him to a mental breakdown. Lyle, on the other hand, comes across as a peculiar and unreliable co-conspirator, thereby making him a less trustworthy narrator than his sensitive younger brother.

But things take a sudden turn when their testimonies are thrown out of court and they have to face a retrial. By that time, the media and public have moved on to the next hottest story. It means that the Menendez brothers' story and their crimes are swapped for another sensational case. This almost seals the fate of their case and changes the trajectory of their lives forever.

As an audience, we feel saddened by this rather predictable verdict. But the shock soon veers off when the other side of the Menendez household comes into focus. We see glimpses of their family life from the flashbacks, like holidays spent and trips taken, which puts focus back on the Menendez couple. This side of their family life muddles our perception of this whole case, making us rethink and reassess the presented narrative. It certainly puts a question on the whole viewpoint of the case since it has been presented from the brothers' point of view and not from their deceased parents. If anything, this moving pendulum manages to up the ante for the drama quotient of this series as we are navigating through this muddled water to sift facts from the fictionalized truth.

At the end of the day, only one thing is certain, and that is the murder of the Menendez couple. Besides that, everything else is still shrouded in mystery. Why did the brothers do what they did, and was there any truth in their allegations against their parents? No one for sure knows the right answers to these questions, and even the series struggles to fill in these gaps coherently.

What elevates this complicated family drama are the top-notch acting performances delivered by the leading cast, especially Cooper Koch, who manages to bring forth the vulnerability of Erik Menendez. He does it with such a tenderness while hiding the dark demons underneath his brooding gaze. He is deftly supported by Ari

Graynor, who brings to life the controversial famous lawyer Leslie Abramson. Then there are Javier Bardem and Chloë Sevigny adding nuances to their portrayal of José Menendez and Mary Louise “Kitty” Menendez, respectively, with utmost dexterity and depth without villainizing them in the process. It’s a fine balance of portraying negative shaded characters without being spiteful, and they have managed to achieve it. Finally, we have to mention Nathan Lane filling in the shoes of Dominick Dunne, a successful Vanity Fair columnist who struggles to separate his professional opinions from his personal circumstances throughout the course of this infamous trial. Thereby, he carries the inherent bias to his media duty for swaying the public opinion against the brothers.

Overall, it’s a binge-worthy series with good production values supported by incredible acting talents. Although the execution falters in a few places and the pace slows down in a couple of episodes, still it’s absolutely worth your streaming time.

So, what is your opinion on the Monster series? Do you think the second season was worth it?

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Underrated gem! 💎



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Finally, we have to mention Nathan Lane filling in the shoes of Dominick Dunne, a successful Vanity Fair columnist who struggles to separate his professional opinions from his personal ...

Balancing personal bias with professional duty is a difficult and real challenge.



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