

Fleabag and what's best about it?

A review of a brilliantly written dark comedy series



The show is based on a woman who has an impeccable sense of wit and humor. She is living the days of her life and she shows the bits and pieces of her broken yet interesting life by speaking to the camera as if she is a part of some reality show. She is shown to be coping with tragedy in her own witty way. She is angry, grieving, who also tries to do therapy, but ends up pushing away anyone who offers her help. She, anyhow, continues to live. The truths about her doings unfold by the end of this comedy series.

The show is adapted from the one-woman play that went by the same title “Fleabag” written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge who also has written and acted as the main lead in both seasons of Fleabag.

Fleabag, the main lead, in this show is shown to be going about her life in London while she’s also dealing with her own personal life, her family, her so many lovers, and of course, her very recent tragedy, losing a best friend to death. The show only has two seasons with 12 episodes each and the runtime of each episode is approximately 25 minutes.

Season 1 of this show is mainly what the one-hour play (fleabag) is, but it has provided the viewers with more depth to the incidents that take place in the show. The character development is so well done that you wouldn’t find a flaw. Fleabag is the kind of character that’ll charm the viewer with her smiles and make the viewers accompany her while she is crying.

It was only possible because of the application of the fourth wall and the breaking of the fourth wall! The talking with the viewers via camera while looking away from the scene and directly passing on comments here and there, making predictions on the behavior and responses, etc. to “where did you just go?” in season two.

The plot of this show is backed with dark comedy. It is hilarious but at some points it is heartbreaking, but it is mostly hilarious. The lead character is going through financial strain and is trying to fund her guinea pig-themed cafe for its further running. She has a boyfriend who constantly leaves her because she masturbates while listening to B. Obama's speeches. She is not content with her boyfriend either-even if she keeps going back to him. And while she is on the break with her boyfriend, Harry, she fills the void with casual sexual connections with possibly toxic people. Immediately after her mother died, her father married her annoying and awful godmother who is an artist. She is equally miserable too. So is her father who turns her down, time and time again. Every time she knocked at his door she would get to listen to a "you've got that from your mother" for every flaw she has or every problem she encounters. Her sister is a very talented, hardworking, and successful woman who is married to an alcoholic husband who has a 15-year-old child who tries to get her in the bathtub while he is inside it too. The husband, who tries to kiss Fleabag. The husband, who puts the blame on Fleabag when his wife confronts him. Then there is the sweet-sweet dead best friend, who died/killed herself in a traffic accident. She wanted her boyfriend who cheated on her to learn a lesson by not allowing him to see her while she would be in the hospital. But she does not survive the accident. Fleabag in the show has a lot of flashbacks with her best friend, some of which are just plain heavenly, and others are disturbing. They both are unhappy, but they are trying to lift each other up and bring out the best. That's what best friends are for. Her best friend is not mean, has dreams, and she is the sweetest person to ever walk on the surface of the earth. Fleabag's anxieties and her guilt are so abruptly frequent sometimes that you'd want her suffering to end. The truths about her best friend's death unfold as the story progresses and it's pretty too much to process.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge has done a commendable job at bringing out the best show ever. It is pretty much of a good shining star job how she managed to bring out a full-fledged web series with two seasons out of a one-hour play. The characters in the series, except for the priest from season two, are not likable at all. Everyone is flawed and everyone is human. The best thing about the writing of this show is that it does not camouflage the bad sides of the people with the technicalities.

Fleabag has a bittersweet connection with her sister. Their father arranges for activities where they meet. Sometimes it is the feminist workshops where they both realize that they are bad feminists and sometimes they go into a school-like institution run by monks, where they have to maintain absolute silence which they both absolutely cannot. Her sister has a very bad PMT. She'd bring a little change to herself in order to feel she is still in control. And Fleabag won't leave her alone on that. Fleabag supports her and it is really heartwarming to see this sweet connection she feels for her sister. But her sister apparently misunderstands her quite often.

Now, let's talk about the best character besides fleabag, The Priest played by Andrew Scott. The priest is introduced in season two of this show and it really gave another brand new brilliant

angle. "This is a love story" as season two begins, you know you are going to leave with a heavy heart. They both meet at the family dinner where Fleabag gets to know the priest who would do the rituals of her father's and awful godmother's wedding.

It's so ironically funny that Fleabag starts going to the church and nearly becomes a believer after the "I don't believe in God" and the picture frame falls down from the wall and the priest laughs, "I love it when he does that" The delivery in this scene is, by God, the best.

Fleabag is trying to sleep with the priest but he won't do it because he practices celibacy. But after the confession she makes to the priest about her miserable life, the priest can't hold himself back and there erupts a vulnerable romance-like situation.

The significance of the word "kneel" is a brilliant representation of submission. However, their love story does not include them, ending up together.

"I love you", says Fleabag. "It shall pass" is what the Priest has to offer in return.

In the last scene, Fleabag waves goodbye to the camera, the fourth wall, while walking away in the dark with the art model she stole from her stepmother's exhibition art pieces.

It would really be a great ending if there was a union of The Priest and Fleabag. But nevertheless, the show is amazing. And it is not shocking that the show has gotten 11 nominations and won 6 Emmys Awards!