

1st Write up

Elite: S4 should I watch it?

The buzz is back and let me tell you it is worth it! All the Elite fans are aware that season four of Elite was launched on June 14th, 2021, and all of us are lapping up this drama. The intrigue and the mystery are back, with new faces into the mix and we are all excited to see what this season has in store for us. Elite is back with its excessive yet addictive edge-of-your-seat mystery, when the lives of working-class students got entangled with the luxuries lives of the scheming, privileged rich we all knew drama was knocking at the doors. Elite has always been about drama and mystery while keeping in view social subject matters.

Brief Recap

A murder took place in the previous season again and not that any of us said that the punishment fits the crime but Polo had it coming after his brutal murder of Marina. With another murder at the hands of the police, everyone is again under the radar and each one has a motive, so who murdered Polo? With the flashforwards acting as pockets of future which add intrigue. This season didn't fail in keeping us hooked. Two new characters into the mix. The season was not perfect but the quality was not compromised and we were all biting our nails till the end. Polo's murder and the flash-forwards of each individual character gave us some angsty teen drama to sink our teeth into. The season ended with the wrapping up of all the drama amongst the old characters. Nadia, Carla, and Lu go their own separate ways after covering for her. Samuel, Rebeka, Caye, Guzman and Ander are still in the show. So season 4 is basically a fresh start with an undertone of tension and conflict in the episodes.

Why should you be watching it?

Many were disappointed when they saw the trailer for this new season of Elite, as many fan favorites have left the show and gone their own ways. But the audience should know that the new cast is something that will keep you very interested. The new students Ari, Patrick, Mencia, and Prince Phillippe are elusive and dark, and you all know that is what keeps this series alive. Elite is known for its intriguing plots and once again we are left guessing, the gripping mystery in this season is a treat for the eyes. Unpredictable and jaw-dropping just begin to describe the twists and turns in this season of the outrageous series. The characters are new to us so it took some time to get used to but this season is a must-watch for its intrigue and juicy characters. You are served fresh turmoil with a whole lot of extra baggage.

Benjamin and his three children add into the series the aspect of family misunderstandings, this family is nothing short of dysfunctional that is for sure. With Mencia making poor decisions, Ari being unable to choose who she actually loves, and Patrick coming in between the relationship of our beloved Omander these three are a handful. Prince Phillippe is another interesting character added to the plot. These characters are here to change the dynamic of Las Encinas and how the "old-timers" react to this upending is something to look forward to. Messy romances, a Cinderella story gone wrong, and a body found in the pool thankfully not dead, is how we enter into Las Encinas' new session this time.

Ari is giving us some major mashup vibes for sure, the girl is as mean as Lu, as prissy and sophisticated as Carla, and has a thing for lonely boys just like Marina, this one is to be looked out for viewers. Further, we have Mencia, the rebel without a cause, who has fallen for Rebe. Patrick seems like the guy with a sweet exterior and a mean man underneath, openly gay this boy is all sorts of trouble. The French prince with a hell of a lot of baggage is giving us not-so-charming vibes for our literal Cinderella, Caye. Guzman is back to his problematic behavior of showing Samu done, and we the people protest. We understand it is needed but this bromance was just blossoming don't test the limit so soon. Caye falling for Phillipe and learning how he wasn't all she envisioned him to be. The series plays around with different themes and the basic one is class divide and mystery.

Conclusion

Many characters have grown in this season and you all will find the season to be more fulfilling than any other when you see that everyone stands for the other. The season grapples with the true meaning of love and friendship and may even redefine the way you see it. It shows how actions have repercussions and being rich and having privilege doesn't make you invincible. The season makes an attempt at humanizing the rich, showing how money really doesn't buy happiness. And having privileges in the world is not all that it is depicted to be. Rich people with money too make mistakes, fall in trouble, and have repercussions to their actions. Such things end up creating greater growth in the season, making it a refreshing and interesting watch. Elite is not only about disappearances and mysteries, even though they are what draws the viewers in, the fight for power, and the take on socio-economic issues make this series a success. Elite season-4 is definitely something that you should watch if teen drama soaked in mystery is your jam. This coming-of-age drama with the mystery and murder is made for all and leaves you with sighs and shocked gasps. the season is nuanced in its discussions and portrayals of class privileges, sexuality, teen angst et al. . It stands out for how even if it is a murder mystery it talks about social issues in a very refreshing way. It is a season that keeps you addicted till the end The mystery that frames the season puts everyone under suspicion leave flickering between drama and investigations, it is a trope that we needed on our screens. If it is tacky escapism you wish to indulge in, Elite season 4 will keep you addicted.

2nd Write up

How cover art helps in selling your book?

Book covers are the most important thing after the manuscript for a book and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. "Don't judge a book by its cover" is all good until it means for an actual book

because tell me would you take a book that has a plain black cover and title written in the smallest font possible? You won't, neither would I. The book cover creates the first impression that a reader gets of your book, and to increase your potential readers you need to have a captivating cover to allure them. As a writer you write manuscripts not books, a book cover is what makes a manuscript a book.

As a writer, how does it help?

A book whether published with the help of publishing companies or you publish it yourself unless you are well-known, you need all help in marketing. Self-promotion is away, but with so many books out there in the market you have to make yourself stand out. And your cover art is one such way to be unique. Your potential readers are going to look at your book cover and in that instance decide whether it is worth their time or not.

A good book cover, with interesting cover art, creates interest in the minds of the readers and makes them want to open the book and read it. The design for your cover art should draw readers in and provide enough charm that they feel compelled to buy it. The good cover art on your book gives you an edge and your book catches the attention of readers, on bookshelves or on online sites. The more the reader is intrigued, the more your book will sell. In the absence of word of mouth and shockingly high publicity, this gives you an edge over the other authors just like you.

A great cover art gives your book an air of professionalism and sophistication that helps nurture a new and struggling author to extend his/her fanbase. Any reader gets attracted by the amount of creative energy in the cover art of the book.

How does it influence readers?

A cover that has enough charm and intrigue will attract buyers and would compel them to pick the book up from the shelf. If the cover is striking enough, it attracts more buyers and increases the sale of your book by at least 30%. A good cover art communicates with the reader and makes it worth their time and attention. Good cover art is what creates what we call a "brain-itch" and this attracts a reader to your book, it influences the reader to read your book. A cover that shows off the genre and tone of your story sits well with the readers. The wonderful cover art makes sure that the expectations of the readers are high which makes the book extremely alluring for the reader.

The positioning of text and images make sure that the readers interpret the context of the book clearly and are intrigued by the idea displayed enough to buy the book and see for themselves what exactly is in store for them.

What makes a good book cover?

1. Intriguing reader:-

The market is full of books and there are a dime a dozen of the same genre in a book store of the same genre, so what makes your book stand out amongst them? What gives it the edge? A striking cover with enough to itch the brain is what makes a book a hit amongst all others.

Your cover should persuade the reader by giving enough to capture the context of the story but not too much that the whole story is revealed. Give them something to think about, to leave the reader guessing is what makes the cover art compelling enough to buy.

1. Build familiarity:-

Typography is what makes a cover appealing, the typography that you choose for the title and in the cover art makes it more familiar for the readers. The way you write the name on your book should be in sync with the tone of your content and the name of your book. Good typography can make a reader remember your book and your name.

2. Compelling cover image:-

When you watch a movie, you first preview it with a trailer, the same way the cover of the book is like teasers and trailers as to what to expect within its pages. A cover image that makes a good teaser can increase the scale of sale of the book abnormally. When the cover is well-crafted and well-thought out it gives the reader enough to elicit interest but doesn't reveal everything. It draws a buyer's attention even without knowing what they may read within the pages of the book. Visuals have always been proven to be more effective in compelling readers than the written word. It makes a reader connect to the book emotionally.

3. Don't go overboard:-

All things have been said, the most important part of it all is that you should never go overboard and add too much, simplicity is the key. Minimalism makes the cover look neat and sophisticated, and in times like the present what a book looks like is very important because appearances do matter. You should also note that you should stick to what a reader may expect from your genre. Don't go around putting a coffee mug on a book written about science fiction. It makes a reader lose interest and reduces the sale of the book.

4. Play with colors:-

The colors you use to create the mood and convey the context of your book is. The colors should not clash, rather should be pleasing and should complement each other. The colors in the book must assimilate with the images that have been chosen on the book's cover.

5. Use images related to the central idea:-

Make sure that the cover is related to the context, and has a recurring image or symbol from the book. Creatively assimilate the idea into the cover and fascinate the readers, accentuating the features of the book and grabbing attention.

Conclusion

To conclude, you should remember that the cover art is what makes the first impression and they ought to be able to convey the overall idea of the book. The cover design should give a clear message to the readers while sticking to the expectation that a buyer has from the specific genre.

If a book cover is amateur it makes the buyer believe that the book must be poorly written and may think that it is not worth their time and money. A well-designed cover gives a reader assurance that the book has quality at par, so the book cover mustn't be sloppy. With everything said, the authors should also remember that the contents of the book should be up to the expectations set by a cover as well. The manuscript should be enticing and up to par. In this generation, covers have become more about promotion than about protection.

3rd Write up

Elite S4 left us shook: what can we expect in the actual series!?

Finally! Netflix has returned with a season 4, and the trailer has us salivating!! After the cliff-hanger we were left with in S3, has us rearing to watch the mystery that will unfold. To recap, The series follows private school kids privileged students, whose lives are as twisted as they can get. With money and power at their disposal drama always follows. Murder in the school's pool, a student disappearing out of the blue, and another one laying in a pool of his own blood on a dance floor makes us sit up and take notice. The show grows more and more sensational as it progresses with the plot twists and the extra spice. The series of murders and who-done-it investigations are what drives the show and make it addictive. Lu and Guzman, playing resident bullies, Polo with murderous intentions, Marina with her empathy, marchioness Carla and everyone in between gives to us what is reprehensible. Add to this, the kids who just happen to have become private school students, Christian, Samuel, Nadia and the social structure is completely upended. The soap remains grounded and humane. Ander and Omar with their love story give you the perfect concoction of teen drama mixed with outrageous mysteries surrounding the lives of the characters with baffling personalities and outrageous intentions.

Trailer review

Las Encinas is back in session, and with new admissions into this lap of luxury, there are many lessons to be learned, just not the kind the school is supposed to teach. With our old favorites moving towards greener pastures, the new blood is hard to digest for fans. But these new kids seem to have a baggage of their own, that seems to be the memo to enter Las Encinas it seems. The Blanco family enters into the school, with Benjamin playing the new school director and his three children Ari, Mencia, and Patrick who in the words of the series director are “ Richer than our rich”, If there wasn't enough privilege already. While Mencia seems to have taken a liking for Rebeka, Rebeka is still pining over Samu. Ari seems to have attracted the attention of our duo, Guzman and Samu, Patrick seems very interested in Omar and Ander's relationship. The new entry Prince Phillipe seems enthralled by Caye, our resident poser now turned into the cleaner. The trailer gives us something to think about.

What can we expect?

The new faces are here to wreak havoc and that's almost all we could get from the wicked mysterious trailer Elite gave us of season 4. The new addition of actual royalty and some who aren't far behind seem hell-bent on shaking the status quo of Las Encinas and we are all for it. The two-minute thrill ride we got of this season has us expecting a lot more of "immoral deeds" and hidden affairs. The basic theme of class conflict stays the same, with a battle of the rich and the ones with the scholarship at its peak. Guzman, Samuel, Rebeka, Ander, and Omar still at school and Cayetana, as the cleaner means old faces will be clashing against the new ones, or will they be welcomed with more than just open arms? That is to be found out when you watch the series audience. But when they cross paths, drama sure will ensue. And the season seems to revolve around who attacked our new queen Ari when her father is trying to rebuild Las Encinas credibility and bring back order to this exclusive institution.

With Benjamin ready to whip the school back into shape. Ari is stirring trouble into Guzman and Nadia's relationship, side note: Nadia the man is not to be trusted, he left Lu for you, who says he won't do it again. And not only is she putting Guzman in trouble, but Samu is also head over heels again. Seems like she has a penchant for loners. Mencia seems interested in pulling Rebe out of her glum mood and make her discover a new side to herself. Patrick is responsible for some tension between Omar and Ander (here is hoping we do not have to say RIP to Omander). These siblings are definitely to be dubbed the meddlesome three. And do not forget Prince not-so-charming Phillipe, who in a typical royal way seems to be falling for the pauper, might be misspelled as poser sometimes.

Conclusion

The troublemakers are back, and we ought to watch what they are up to, stream Elite S4 on Netflix from June 14 and get your dose of mystery and drama. Even though many may be sceptical as to how the old and the new will mix, trust me the result is very positive and praiseworthy. With Ari given the baton of being a mashup of Lu and Carla, drama is sure to follow. The mystery being thrown in is just how Elite wins hearts and this season's mystery seems the most plausible of all. And the cast change shows that the series can work on its own, characters may come and go but the plotline will go on forever!

The show still has much to captivate the audience with the cast and enmeshing, suspenseful murder mystery or pure mysteries thrilling us and making us want more of the spice. A spin-off of many classic teen shows, without clichés, is the best way to describe this original series. It stands out for how even if it is a murder mystery it talks about social issues in a very refreshing way. It is addictive and binge-worthy in the way it tells the story and sets the scene. The murders and mysteries that frame the show leave no one unsuspected, flickering between drama and investigations, giving the viewers flashbacks and flashforwards seems like it is a trope that we needed on our screens to keep us intrigued. The sharp writing and impeccable acting of the OG and the new additions are sure to make you stay throughout all the nail-biting and super-charged drama. If it is tacky escapism you wish to indulge in, Elite season4 will keep you addicted.

4th Write up

Elite season reviews

This outrageous Spanish teen soap slash murder mystery premiered on Netflix on October 5th, 2018. Beginning and somewhat ending at one place, Las Encinas, the private school for the rich heirs and heiresses of fortunes passed down generations. Elite serves to you scandals, raucous pool parties, fights in the locker room, and “beautiful” people set on stabbing each other in the back.

Plot Overview

This Netflix original follows a band of private school kids with privileges one could only wish for. And when there is money and power, drama is sure to follow. Murder in the school's pool is just the beginning, the show grows more and more salacious as it progresses down the plot twists and the drama. The series of murders and who-done-it investigations are what drives the show. With a stellar ensemble of the popular kids and bullies Lu and Guzman, privileged Polo, entitled Marina, marchioness Carla and everyone in between gives us what we crave. And the kids who just happen to have become private school students, the class clown Christian, lonely boy Samuel, intelligent Nadia help us actually relate to the series and keep the soap grounded. Add to it the sappy romance of Ander and Omar and you have the perfect mix of teen drama with outrageous mysteries surrounding the lives of the characters.

Review

Season-1

A no-cliché teen soap is hard to find, but this season of elite gives us all the drama and the thrill without the added slow death clichés. The season begins with a private school exclusive to the privileged, the social currency being wealth and power. Enter into this land of the fancy, three students who have no business being in a place where social status determines your survival. Welcome Samuel, the lonely boy who is the most human of them all. Christian, effervescent doesn't even begin to describe this troublesome hunk and Nadia, the smartest goody two shoes. And when the sheep enter the wolf's lair, it is a season of slaughter. Controversies seem to be all-around when these three scholarship students end up toppling the social order. Guzman, whose crooked father was responsible for these student's scholarships hates them with a vengeance and is hell-bent on making his friends torment the three. Nano, Samuel's brother, is out of jail and up for an expose. With him stirring trouble and wanting to expose all that is wealthy, the season is ready to throw more drama into the mix. Someone is dead, and everyone is a suspect. With slow-paced noir-like police interrogation scenes amid the mystery of who-done-it makes this season as addictive as it can get. This season gives you an addictive conflict, a

slow-boiling mystery, empathy for characters, glum teens with luxury in their laps, and a plot that you start taking seriously.

Season-2

Elite is back with its excessive yet addictive edge-of-your-seat mystery, when the lives of working-class students got entangled with the luxuries lives of the scheming, privileged rich we all knew drama was knocking at the doors, but after the first season's snazzy mystery, what does this season have up for offer? It's a new school year sans Marina and Samuel is hurting while working towards helping his wrongly accused older brother, Nano, Guzman is drowning in the misery of losing his little sister. Nadia is falling for Guzman and as much as we are all for it, her parents might raise an objection or hundred. Polo's murder of Marina has him paranoid while Carla and Christian act as if they know nothing of it. Samu's disappearance, Lu and her half brother's scandalous affair, and a leaked tape have us sitting up and taking notice. Enter into this Cayetana and Rebeka, the daughter of the school's cleaner, a scammer on the journey of fitting into the elusive inner circle of Las Encinas, and the daughter of a fraudster, who pulls Samu and Nadia up and out of dumps. This season ends on an anti-climatic note and gives us something to think about.

Season-3

A murder again and not that I am saying that the punishment fits the crime but Polo had it coming after his brutal murder of Marina. Everyone is a suspect again and each one has a motive, so who murdered Polo? With the flashforwards acting as pockets of future which add intrigue. This season too doesn't fail to keep us hooked. Two new characters into the mix. It isn't perfect but the quality has not been compromised. Polo's murder and the flash-forwards of each individual character give us some angsty teen drama to sink our teeth into.

Season-4

Many were disappointed when they saw the trailer for this new season of Elite, for many beloved characters are not involved in the show anymore. But fear, not audience the new cast is something that will keep you very interested, Ari, Patrick,, Mencia and Prince Phillipe are elusive and dark, and you all know that is what keeps this series alive. Elite is known for its intrigue and once again we are not left disappointed, the gripping mystery in this season is a treat for the eyes. Unpredictable and jaw-dropping are just some words that can describe the twists and turns in this season of the outrageous series. This season is a must-watch for its intrigue and juicy characters.

Each season in the series brings to the table a new salacious, off-your-rocker murder mystery with the motive unknown, another character murdered, or a sudden disappearance. But unlike many other series with plotlines that have murder mystery written all over them, this soap dishes to you a lot more than just murders and conspiring teens. Every character is given equal

importance and there is no stone left unturned in letting them braise in the storyline and develop their characters. Each season is nuanced in its discussions and portrayals of class privileges, sexuality, teen angst et al. This coming-of-age drama with the mystery and murder is made for all and leaves you with sighs and shocked gasps.

5th Write up

ELITE OFFERS UP MORE THAN JUST A TEEN SHOW DRAMA

A series in town that is spicy and sophisticated who wouldn't love it. The outrageous Spanish teen soap slash murder mystery premiered on Netflix on October 5th, 2018. It begins and somewhat ends at one place, Las Encinas, the private school for the rich heirs and heiresses of fortunes passed down generations. Elite serves to you the most sketchy plotline, raucous pool parties, fights in the locker room, and "beautiful" people set on stabbing each other in the back. Each season in the series brings to the table a new salacious, off-your-rocker murder mystery with the motive unknown, another character murdered, or a sudden disappearance. But unlike many other series with plotlines that have murder mystery written all over them, this soap dishes to you a lot more than just murders and conspiring teens. Every character is given equal importance and there is no stone left unturned in letting them braise in the storyline and develop their characters.

What does the soap show?

This Netflix series, follows the lives of private school kids with privileges we all crave for. Money and power is all you need to spice up some drama. Murderous intentions and a girl laying in her own blood in the school's pool is just the beginning, the show grows more and more scandalous as it progresses, the plot twists and the drama has us seating on an edge. The series of murders and who-done-it investigations are what gives the show the push of being binge worthy. With an ensemble of the popular kids, Lu and Guzman bullying their way through the school, privileged Polo with a scandal on his head, entitled Marina, the poor girl, marchioness Carla and everyone in between add to the mystery that entails Elite. And the kids who just happen to have become private school students, the class clown Christian, lonely boy Samuel, intelligent Nadia keep the soap grounded. Add to it Ander and Omar, the shippers of Omander and you have the perfect mix of teen drama with outrageous plot twists surrounding the lives of the characters who have layers and layers left to unravel.

Elite: Not just a teen drama, I offer more.

1. A storyline that makes you want to stay:

No worries lovers of drama, this series may be a suspenseful murder mystery, but it will give you tea that will make you go bonkers. And to all the lovers of mystery, this series will give you something to remember. *Elite* gives you drama and mystery and makes actual sense what else could you possibly want?! It is coherent, interesting and you stay hooked until the last, wishing you had more to binge. A story that explore personal lives and mixes it with the who-done-it investigations that give you enough eerie vibes to suffice for ages.

2. The characters just make sense:

The plotline addresses nuanced inner conflicts of each character and make them more human to the audience. It fights the stigma surrounding how the rich and privileged never have troubles in their lives. It shows us how each character in the series is battling their own inner turmoil while adhering to the rules their parents and the school. The plotline has added poignance all because of this added humane effect to all characters.

3. The use of flashbacks and flash forwards:

Throughout the storyline each character is explored while investigations take place alongside. With no one left unsuspected, the plot brings out the true nature of each character. You start the series and you see a girl murdered in a pool, and then it flashes back to the months leading to the murder. Sometimes showing the investigations on who-done -it?

The personal lives of these characters get you so hooked that you almost forget that any of them could be a murderer. If I were to be honest teens already have enough drama in their lives without adding into it the intrigue of murder and investigations. The use of flashbacks and flash-forwards make you imagine the best and the worst, satisfying your intrigue but leaving you wanting more.

4. Toxic masculinity at its best:

Guzman the popular kid and the resident bully. This bad boy seems to hate the “outsiders” a little too much, but boy-oh-boy how do you rationalize it ,when your father is the one that was at fault. When we start the series he makes you want to hate him, the privileged anti-hero, manipulative, rude and entitled. But as the show goes on its way, Guzman seems to peel off his layers and lo and behold look what we find out. He is over-protective when it comes to his family, he cares about his friends to a fault and last but not the least he manages to fall for the girl he wanted to humiliate. This character surely has grown all along the journey of the series and we are all for it.

5. Social issues:

This show with its classy and sophisticated themes also manages to throw light on actual social issues in a very refreshing way. It shows how teens already go through so much, figuring out who they actually are while navigating the shark infested halls of their high schools without adding to it pre-conceived notions and expectations from them. Nadia’s fight for her hijab, even when she was about to face expulsion is one of the most powerful and empowering moment in

the series. The series throws light on the fact that classism, racism, xenophobia and many other cultural norms and restrictions are not restricted to certain cultures and are present everywhere.

CONCLUSION

In short, we can say that *Elite* is that category of drama that is fun, sophisticated yet it is not mind-numbingly confusing for the audience. With a dash of mystery on the dark side, with the saccharine sweetness of love, this show gives you a lot more than murder mysteries and teen drama. It is an attempt to show the pain of being a teen in a society with over expectations and notions that restrict you from finding your true self. This nail-biting is as out there as it is relatable. It is more than just a guilty pleasure, but be warned if you don't know Spanish, subtitles are all that can save you.

6th Write up

Elite: Gossip Girl with a twist?

Is there a new YA series in town that could replace the iconic Gossip Girl? It is a replacement or not is still not known, but any Gossip Girl tragic will attest to this, that *Elite* has come the closest to filling the Upper-East sized hole in their hearts. *Elite* seems to have lived up to the moreish absurdity offered by our favorite and the most chaotic Gossip Girl.

The outrageous Spanish teen soap slash murder mystery begins and somewhat ends at one place, Las Encinas, the private school for the rich heirs and heiresses of fortunes passed down generations. *Elite* serves to you the most sketchy plotline and manages to take all that is good-umm as good as we can expect- from Gossip Girl and leaves out the gaping plot holes and machinations inside the walls of Dan's Brooklyn apartment, a can of worms never to be opened again.

Is *Elite* a flashback to Gossip Girl?

Elite gives you raucous pool parties, fights in the locker room, and "beautiful" people set on stabbing each other in the back, all the same as Gossip Girl. Gossip girl just ended up jumping the ship way too early. In hopes that increasingly chaotic and outrageous scenes will keep the audience captivated. Oh well! Seems like Gossip Girl didn't give out this piece of advice to its ensemble, it is all about the suspense and the building of scenes people! Don't give out too much, too soon. But *Elite* seems to have got the memo in time because this YA series gives us just what we want with garnish on top.

Each season in the series brings to the table a new salacious, off-your-rocker murder mystery with the motive unknown, another character murdered, or a sudden disappearance. But unlike many other series with plotlines that have murder mystery written all over them, this soap dishes to you a lot more than just murders and conspiring teens. Every character is given equal

importance and there is no stone left unturned in letting them braise in the storyline and develop their characters.

All said and done, here are some reasons why the Elite series can be seen as Gossip Girl served with a twist and a pinch of lemon zest.

1.Extra cheese, just subtle and better:

No one can deny, no even Gossip Girl stans that every dialogue in the series was delivered with cheese dripping down its sides. While that would be a wonderful sight to see on a pizza, it is not that easy on the ears for the non-GG-er.

No denying the fact that the Elite cast serves their dialogues with a double burst of cheese. But these corny lines sound much sweeter when you hear them in Spanish from the mouths of Polo and Carla than when they burst out of Nate and Blair every five seconds.

Carla's declarations of love, "mas que nunca", "always have, always will" sound more sophisticated than Blair and Nate's cheesy, syrupy one-liners.

2.The Redemption Arc missed Marina:

Serena Van der Woodson was a girl with many fans but there is one thing we all know that girl messed up far too much. Bad decisions were her forte, and with her, onboard, nothing was off the table. Be it partying a little too hard, getting involved with a married man, lying to save herself, the list goes on and on. But she always had her friends to save what was left no matter what she put them through.

Marina on the other hand spiraled right across season-1, making decisions that went against all beliefs and betraying her friends and family in the process. When push came to shove this curly-haired beauty had no one to play her knight in shining armor. And for what it's worth that story is better to tell.

Serena kept getting a million chances of redemption just because. Marina got the consequences of her actions and her actions caught up with her. Not that the punishment fit the crime, but Elite took a risk that GG never did because Serena was the main character running the show.

3.A pace that makes you run out of sighs:

Gossip Girl can not be blamed for the restrictions put on the series when it came to the duration and time of episodes, but the series had to make up for a lot of lost time with these guidelines in place. Elite on the other hand had Netflix's flexible policies and was free to tailor its length and episodes to fit the plot it wished to tell. And this undeniable advantage gave the soap a series of jam-packed episodes across seasons, serving to us drama and plot twists like the food in brunches of the Upper-East side. In this golden age of series, Elite gives you in a series what we love in the movies.

The suspense in every single episode makes you ooh and sigh, and no one does drama better than teens and when you add money and power into the mix the drama intensifies and so do the twists.

All there is to say, as I bid adieu:

Elite is a perfect successor for the Gossip Girl fans to captivate the audience with a stellar cast and enmeshing, suspenseful murder mystery chilling us and making us want more. It is a spin-off of many classic teen shows, just put better. It stands out for how even if it is a murder mystery it talks about social issues in a very refreshing way. It is a show to obsess over. The murders that frame the show leave no one unsuspected, flickering between drama and investigations, it is a trope that we needed on our screens. The sharp writing and impeccable acting make you stay throughout all the nail-biting and super-charged drama. If it is tacky escapism you wish to indulge in, Elite will keep you addicted. It is a distraction we crave for. The nuances and complexities delivered subtly will keep you hooked till the end.

7th write up

SHADOW AND BONE (NETFLIX) VS GAME OF THRONES(HBO).

-Natasha Sharma

The Netflix original series, Shadow and Bone adapted from Leigh Bardugo's bestselling Young Adult Grishaverse Trilogy, released on the popular streaming app on April 23, 2021. It is out and so far so good, but of course anyone who quenches their curiosity and watches the newly released series would acknowledge the metaphorical elephant in the room, the uncanny parallels of the eight episodes of *Shadow and Bone* to the classic fantasy gore *Game Of Thrones*.

When the vastly popular GOT streamed by HBO came to a close, it left an undeniable void in the hearts and on the screens of fantasy lovers for the past three years and counting. And that led to a quest for quenching the thirst of the suspense and thrill offered by the eight-season series.

Shadow and Bone based loosely on Tsarist Russia seems like one such effort on the part of the Netflix. To be fair, Netflix has made many such efforts, and of course granted generous budgets to many successful fantasy series. Off the top of the head, The Umbrella Academy, The Witcher and Fate: The Winx Saga, watched and loved by the fans of the will-o'-the-wisp.

With the TV and streaming sites drowning in choices in the wide sea of fantasy, folklore, sci-fi and best-selling book adaptations, no fantasy series has yet reached the wide-spread popularity or the immense impact on the minds of viewers that watching GOT entailed. Out of the many series on various streaming sites vying to be 'The Chosen One', Shadow and Bone has the earmarks of being a worthy successor to the suspenseful, medieval fantasy that GOT delivered to the viewers. Shadow and Bone tells the story of an orphan Alina Stakov from Keramzin, Ravka, she works as a map-maker of a war-torn country and in the heat of a battle she discovers her powers, shocking her to know that she was a Grisha- one with supernatural powers, this dormant ability reveals her to be the "Sun Summoner", making her the only hope to offer safe passage through the vicious Shadow Fold. Suddenly, a map-maker orphan is the key to bringing peace in Grishaverse and that in its actuality paints a big old target on her head.

VIVID MYTHOLOGY AND OTHER WORLD PLOT

GOT has a rich crest of mythology and folk lore deep-rooted into the series, George R. R. Martin laid out the innate suspenseful basis of the complex characters resonating in the hearts of fantasy lovers, which gave the series the much needed foundation for constructing a fan base for itself. The machinations of politics, the thrill of high fantasy, the gore and the adventure make GOT undefeatable in the palates of the fans.

Shadow and Bones does have lot to offer much to the satisfaction of the GOT fanbase, the high fantasy angle is still alive in the fictional world of Grishaverse where the whole series is based. The thrill of the practitioners of magic or shall we say the “small science”, the complexity of mythology all is up for grabs in this newly released series.

Similar to the plot in GOT, Shadow and bone too has fictional other worlds which are inspired by the real world making them out-of-reach but still relatable for the viewers, just as in GOT Braavos, Westerous were the fictional counterparts of the European countries of Venice and the United Kingdoms, Bardugo too has kept up with the idea and kept the series grounded and real by building a fictional world on the foundation of the all too known real world. Shadow and Bone has played on the familiarity of the known Nordic countries and Tsarist Russia to build Ravka and Fjerda.

This creation of other worlds which have vast differences yet are not too different makes both the series even more interesting and immerses the viewers.

POLITICAL WARFARE AND INTER-KINGDOM HATE

Shadow and Bone gives to us Grishaverse a world with medieval kingdoms and countries which are oh so distinct, and where there is distinction, differences do follow. Bardugo has grappled with political intrigue, warring agendas and the uncertainty of survival. Ravka is shown as a kingdom with nothing but despair to offer, no trade, no supplies just the looming Shadow Fold cutting them off, and add into it the war with Fjerda and the bordering kingdoms, all being looked over by an ignorant king, a series set in the midst of an upheaval and a brewing war, wonder where we last saw that!!

Game of Thrones showed us the rivalry of kingdoms for the acquisition of the Iron Throne and gave to us the same thrill of fomenting wars and ripe context to relate to present international conflicts, letting the horses of imagination run wild.

Into the mix are the personal agendas and vulnerabilities of Alina and her elimination. The complexity of characters shown in both the series, make them just a lot more intriguing than the portrayal of straight-up villains and the knight in shining armors.

Neither Netflix nor HBO spared any expenses in making both series look as real as possible, and make the viewers sit up and take notice. The proper usage of VFX and CGI made sure that all the rough edges are eliminated, and the fantastical monsters and magical elements look believable and grounded. The visuals are gruesome and raw, often so vicious the ripping of hearts and the gathering of Darkling shadows, is all made to look so believable that the viewer cannot help but get immersed.

So to argue, Game of Thrones and Shadow and Bone are as much different as similar, even though Shadow and Bone has many seasoned characters who have lived through one too many battles of life, it is a YA bent series unlike Game of Thrones. It gives to the readers the thrill and the gore of GOT but is not as R- rated as GOT sitting very firmly in the wheelhouse of YA fantasy. Many may say that Shadow and Bone is Game of Thrones that can be watched along with teenagers. It is fast paced and brimming working through highs and lows and just like GOT it is not spoon fed to the viewers it leaves the viewers waiting for more. And of course, Shadow and Bone works on the plot with one protagonist Alina only whereas GOT does not have any qualms in killing off potential main characters. The charm and the emotional attachment of GOT to be very honest is unbeatable and is yet to be reached by this Netflix original. With the machinations visible, we can say that Shadow and Bone has the makings of being the next GOT but the verdict is still undecided. The battle of the two series does end with saying that GOT has the emotional connect with the fans and to beat that, Shadow and Bone needs to work much harder and pull up its socks and develop the characters along the way. A one-season original can not be compared with an eight-season classic with a solid foundation. Even though Shadow and Bone ticks all the right boxes, there is a lot to come and we cannot wait for it.

8th Write up

Grey's Anatomy

Why is everyone talking about Grey's Anatomy?

When you look for a casual viewing, convenient soap, the first thing that comes to mind of soap lovers is GREY'S ANATOMY. The 15-year old medical drama is all you can want when you want something raw yet casual to watch as an audience. It offers much more to the viewer than medical terms and surgeries; it lives up to its name as a medical "drama" and is a distraction from your troubles, immersing you in the characters and their lives.

Grey's Anatomy is one such show that lives up to its reputation even after running for 15 years on our screens; there has never been an instance of decline in quality of this soap with a much-loved plot. To the amazement of the audience, Grey's Anatomy makes you laugh, cry, relates to your lives and not only that, it brings to light social and sensitive topics, successfully using such a popular platform while still keeping the medical outlook of the series alive.

Plot Overview

The American medical drama aired first on March 27, 2005. This soap follows the lives of residents, interns and attendings working at SEATTLE GRACE HOSPITAL, and mainly follows the life of MEREDITH GREY, the daughter of ELLIS GREY. She starts working at the hospital as an intern alongside fellow interns Cristina Yang, Alex Karev, Izzie Stevens, and George O'O' Malley, all wrapped up in their problems while managing their hectic lives.

Grey's Anatomy is a series that you can watch just because you want to; you feel no need to love it, you do not have to dedicate yourself to it. Unfortunately, it is a warren of storylines and tricky characters that move along the episodes altogether. This fast-paced jumbled plot is difficult to keep up with. It almost feels like you are back in school, and this is your Math class, the one you cannot miss if you want to keep up.

The show does not hide the strength of human emotions, and the acting feels natural and raw. Hence the madhouse of the current Covid situation added into the series did not take away the impact of the characters' acting; it instead amplified the performances by adding more emotional nuances into the acting as the physical appearances were hidden behind PPE.

The characters in the soap perfectly capture each emotion and portray the truth so that each viewer can understand its meaning, yet it is as impeccable as it can get. The way they handle life and death situations they face each day makes you feel a lot closer to the characters.

The PLOT

While the seasons are released, many new people are added to this labyrinth of characters. Among them, Derek Shepherd, Owen Hunt, Richard Webber, Miranda Bailey, Mark Sloan, and Callie Torres remain constant characters.

The tragedies in these doctors' lives never seem to end, and the directors do not seem too keen on keeping the main characters safe and alive all long throughout the length of the show. The sprawling show gives equal importance to medical cases, pandemics, traumas, and the nightmares of bureaucratic red tape. All of it provokes the emotions and thoughts of the audience; it shows real-life troubles, brings to light the compromises we make with ourselves in the name of adapting to our surroundings. It is dramatic, enthralling and brings the viewer back for more.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

1. MIRANDA BAILEY

The character we all fear and love in equal measures has for sure seen a development across the seasons. Her no-nonsense attitude and quotable one-liners make her a pretty awesome character, but she always acted as the boss in the first season. The second season saw her as a kinder, more sympathetic character, making her more human.

2. MEREDITH GREY

The character, who made a lot of development in her personal and professional life, went from fearing relationships to having three children and being somewhat happily married to her

long-time love interest, Derek Shepherd. Meredith, for sure, has come a long way and developed her character to the T.

3. MARK SLOAN

This man rubbed everyone the wrong way when he first came on to the show, but his character developed when he started to make amends and friends, rebuilding his severed friendship with Derek Shepherd; I can't blame Shepherd for not losing any love. Over this friendship! The man slept with his wife!!

But after patching up, these two had an adorable bromance brewing with hilarious scenes and belly laughs; this duo was indeed on a roll.

4. ALEX KAREV

The character everyone hated at first for the wrong attitude and the entitlement did very much development along the way. Alex needed to chill, and when he did, Lo and Behold! The man was not at the receiving end of any hate. His friendship with Meredith and Yang are worth watching, and his relationship with Izzie has us all crying like babies.

Grey's Anatomy is critically acclaimed to be the greatest television shows of all time; with the intriguing and intricate complexities in character, the show is a comfortable show for all audiences. In addition, the emotional connection the real-life situations just make the soap even more exciting and endearing for the watchers.

It tells us through the scenes that unfold on our screens how the world is not all black and white, the nuances of Grey make life what it is and just like how the characters in the series seek comfort from one another and hold friendships and relationships dear, we all in our lives tend to do the same.

Grey's Anatomy, the high-intensity medical drama, is a must-watch. This fun, emotional and thrilling series will give you a blanket of comfort on the hardest of days and a beautiful and joyful company on the days you wish to laugh along.

Social Media

Copy Content: If you are not a medical professional and still claim to know a lot, you are a Grey's fan and we know it!

Caption Content: The longest running show of in the history of TV series, Grey's Anatomy is a package of all things and emotions alike.

9th Write up

Top places in Mehsana

Mehsana a beautiful district in Gujarat with so many sights to see that you won't be able to decide. Here is a list of places that will leave you awestruck and will quench your thirst for beautiful tourist spots.

1. Modhera Sun Temple

About the temple:-

A Hindu Temple dedicated to the solar deity Surya. This sun temple is located at Modhera village in the district of Mehsana in Gujarat, India. It was built after 1026-27 CE under the rule of Bhima I from the Chaulukya dynasty. Noone offers worship here now, it is under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India. The designing of the temple is in a way that during every equinox, the first ray of the rising sun would fall on a diamond placed on the head of the Sun God inside the temple. This lights up the shrine with a golden glow which makes it look majestic. The Sabha Mandap of the temple stands on 52 pillars, which signifies the 52 weeks in a year. The carvings of the sun on the walls show its unity with all the elements :air, water, earth and space.

Architectural Amazements: -

The temple complex has three main components:

1. Gudhamandapa which is the shrine hall
2. Sabhamandapa which is the assembly hall
3. Kunda is the reservoir.

The halls of the temple have intricately carved exterior and pillars. The reservoir has steps to reach the bottom and numerous small shrines. The Kunda was built earlier at the beginning of the 11th century. The proper temple, the miniature and the niche shrines in the tank were built shortly after 1026 CE. The dancing hall was added to the structure much later in the 12th century.

The temple complex has been built in the Chaulukya style. The walls of the shrine are completely plain but the the outer wall is decorated. The doorway has carved figures of Surya seated in panels surrounded by performers and captivated couples. All figures are maimed and the images on the door- beam are destroyed irreversibly. The depicted scenes on small flat ceilings are from Hindu epics.

Historical Significance: -

Around 1024-25, Mahummad of Gazhni invaded Bhima's kingdom, and an army of around 20,000 soldiers were unsuccessful in checking his advance at Modhera. Historians theorize the Sun Temple might have been built to commemorate the defense.

Best time to visit:-

The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat organizes an annual three-day dance festival known as 'Uttarardha Mahotsav' at the temple during the third week of January, after the festival of Uttarayan.. The aim of the festival is to present classical dance forms in an environment which is similar to that in which they were originally performed. It is a celebration of the architectural grandeur and rich cultural heritage of the region. The classical dance forms performed within the premises of the temple help in reviving the imperial ambiance during the period.

Information to keep in mind: -

Timings: 7 AM - 6 PM

Entry Fee: Rs. 40 for Indians, Rs. 200 for Foreigners & Rs. 300 for Guide

Museum Timings: 10 AM - 5 PM

Thol Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary

About the place:-

Gujarat is home to a man-made, artificial lake, located in the Thol Village of its Mehsana district. Thol Lake, owns a very famous Thol wildlife sanctuary which is a home to dozens of birds from a variety species. The sanctuary consists of an in-built shallow water body for the birds to drink water and cool down in summers. Different migratory birds come visit this sanctuary, nest and breed in the water body and make for a very successful trip for tourists. The main bird species seen around are Flamingoes and Sarus Crane, which are very rarely found in any wildlife sanctuary.

The sanctuary not only houses birds but also mammals such as bluebull, striped hyena, wolves, golden jackal and blackbuck which are rarely found anywhere else except in this particular sanctuary. This lake and the wildlife sanctuary make for a good one day trip, which is both fun and educational.

Historical hieghts:-

The lake is a fresh water reservoir which was artificially constructed in the year 1912, under the Gaekwad regime. Around that time India was facing a severe water crisis. Hence, the reservoir was built to supply water for irrigation. the ministers or the authority at that time phase built this reservoir to provide water for irrigation purposes. The lake was built like a tank in the year 1912 with fresh water but as years passed by draughts and lack of rainfall became a common occurrence causing problems for farmers. The lake is surrounded by various species of birds and

marshes, so it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1918. And is also an Eco-sensitive Zone.

Best time to visit:-

The sanctuary is famous amongst tourists for its various camping and trekking programs organized throughout the year. The best season to visit the Thol Bird Sanctuary would be between November to February to enjoy the scenery.

Timings

Thol Lake Bird Sanctuary can be visited during the day from 06:00 AM to 05:30 PM

Entry Fees

50 INR per Indian Visitors

\$10 USD per Foreigner Visitors

Dharoi Dam

Dharoi Dam is a gravity dam near Dharoi in the Mehsana district of northern Gujarat. It was constructed in 1978 for irrigation, power generation and flood control. Dharoi dam is the key dam built on the beautiful river of Sabarmati. Located in hilly areas around north of Gujarat it has a beautiful scenery to enjoy when you visit. A road has been constructed to go to river bed of Dharoi dam.

Taranga Hills

About the place:-

Taranga is the three-peaked hill located in the Mehsana district of Gujarat. It holds great importance for Jains as it is considered to be one of the five most Mahatirthas. It has beautiful and scenic places of interest in itself.

Places of Interest:-

The famous Ajitnath Jain Temple is located here whose construction was started by Kumarpala. The architecture of the temple is a delightful sight to see. Centuries later, the temple was renovated by Akbar in the 16th century.

The hills are famous for a trail of Digambar Jain temples. There are 14 temples which are dedicated to different Thirthankaras who attained salvation right here on these hills. The hills have a connection with not only Jainism but with Buddhism as they shelter temples of Taranamata, from whose name the village was given its name.

Best time to visit

Apart from the extreme summer months from March to May, the temple can be visited anytime. Intermittent rains are common throughout the year. Tourists usually come up here especially on full moon days.

Sharmishtha Talav

Sharmishtha Talav is the perfect showcase of architectural excellence during rule of Solanki period which are till date in use. This lake was filled up by the waters of the river Kapila flowing from the hills of Aravalli. It is well surrounded with paved roads, gardens and has

provisions of boating. It is believed that the Hatkeshwar temple and Sharmishtha Lake, now in the outskirts of Vadnagar, once stood in the middle of the city.

It can be visited all round the year. The timings for visit are from 9:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

Kirti Toran

About the place:-

Kirti Toran are pair of columns supporting an arch, around 40 feet in height built in red and yellow sandstone, located on the Sharmishta Lake constructed in the 12th century. Lord Shiva is the main deity carved on the Toran arches.

History and architecture:-

It is theorized that they were erected after a war victory, as the architecture is decorated with carvings of battle and hunting scenes. Almost complete and a typical example of its kind, it rises to a total height of 40 feet. It consists of two massive and elaborate columns, supporting a wide cornice, above which rises a vaulted pediment, containing figures. The pillars are designed in such a way that there is an upper storey which is thrown up an ornamental cusped arch, making the effect of an archway more ostensible. All the parts forming the 'toran' are devised on the same principles as those employed in the temple design during the Solanki period.

Timings:-

This tourist place can be visited all round the year between 9:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

