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# 13 REASONS WHY...

...you should watch this show, and one reason why you shouldn't

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**I**F YOU'RE A NETFLIX NETIZEN, YOU'RE LIKELY TO HAVE HEARD OF the teenage drama that's been making waves, sometimes for the wrong reasons. Here, we list the reasons why you should watch it, and one major reason why avoiding it might be a good decision too.

## 1. IT'S REALISTIC

What they depict in this show are real issues, and it's great that a conversation is taking place around them instead of shoving it all under the carpet

## 2. IT'S WELL-WRITTEN

The dialogues and screenplay are gripping, and you're always wondering what's coming next.

## 3. IT'S NOT PREACHY

It discusses the grave reality of society today without being preachy. It simply shows us a mirror of the times we live in.

## 4. IT'S SLOW, BUT NOT BORING

Each episode takes a while to come into its own, but the wait doesn't really feel laboured.

## 5. IT'S STARKLY HONEST

From the language teenagers use, to drug use, sexual activity, and the shallow hook up culture pervading U.S. society, it doesn't shy away from anything.

## 6. IT'S WELL-ENACTED

The acting is top notch, and that's because most of the actors playing teenagers are much older, so there's an element of maturity in the performances of the actors.

## 7. IT DOESN'T PANDER TO EXPECTATIONS

While viewers would want certain consequences for a character, the show sticks to what happens in the real world instead of simply satisfying viewers for the sake of it.

## 8. IT DEPICTS THE FLAWS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Money and power get you out of situations, no matter which part of the world you are in. The show makes no bones about this.

## 9. IT DISPELS THE MYTHS OF CHILDHOOD AND YOUNG ADULTHOOD

Forget all the comforting talk about kids being innocent. They can be pure evil, and the show accurately depicts that.

## 10. IT SHOWS HOW THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE U.S. IS FAILING

From gun violence to sexual assault to extreme bullying, the show depicts the utter shambles that the U.S. education system finds itself in.

## 11. IT PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON PARENTS

While schools aren't doing enough and that's for sure, the show also explores the role parents need to play.

## 12. IT DEEPLY EXPLORES THE OFT IGNORED FEELINGS OF GUILT AND SHAME

Victim shaming is a reality of our times, and this show delves right into it.

## 13. IT SHEDS LIGHT ON LONELINESS

There's a difference between being alone and being lonely, and the show discusses how the latter can drive someone to the extreme step of committing suicide.

## AND THE ONE REASON YOU SHOULDN'T?

The graphic sexual assault scene in Season 2. It's gory, and features possibly the most stomach-churning visuals you'll ever see on screen. Personally, and my sentiments echo those of many around the world, it was uncalled for, entirely unnecessary, and seems to be an attempt at creating shock value. If you do end up watching the show, I suggest skipping that scene completely. It doesn't serve to sensitise you to the issue, instead makes you lose faith in humanity entirely.

Hopefully, the makers will consider the backlash that the scene has created, and avoid a similar error in judgement in Season 3, if there is one. I do hope there is another season though, since a lot of questions still remain unanswered. And some people need to pay dearly for their actions. Even if justice is delayed, it shouldn't be denied. For that happens in the real world too, doesn't it? **U**