



BLACK MIRROR: MIRRORING THE FUTURE

In its fourth avatar, Black Mirror's prognosis for humanity is a bleak one - but also shows how human spirit can alter the course

WORDS **ROHAN PASRICHA**

ONCE IN A WHILE COMES A SCI-FI SHOW THAT jolts you out of your hunky-dory perception of the world and forces you to think - can this really happen? If you haven't watched the previous seasons of Netflix's Black Mirror, you're missing out on the best of what TV has to offer, and that by no means is an exaggeration. So even before you finish reading this article, do yourself a favour and get a Netflix subscription - if you haven't already. It's worth it just for this show, if nothing else.

For those familiar with the series, this latest instalment has a similar theme - everything is okay until technology inevitably decides to mess things up. The first and fantastic episode is titled 'USS Callister', wherein a tech genius uses DNA scans to simulate real people who feature in his Star Trek style game. Most of them are people he doesn't like and who he believes have 'wronged' him in the real world. It's a parallel universe in the true sense of the term and what happens next is...well, you have to see it to believe it. No spoilers here. The second, titled 'Arkangel', delves into the consequences of

extreme child monitoring. Honestly, I expected a little more from this one. 'Crocodile' is Episode 3, which is about an insurance agent who uses a new technology to retrieve people's memories. The premise is wholly believable and is something that can actually happen in our lifetime.

The fourth and one of the best is 'Hang the DJ', centred around a dating app that predicts how long a relationship will last. It is here where Black Mirror shows its unwavering belief in the human spirit. The fifth, and not really my favourite, is 'Metalhead', about a woman in an apocalypse scenario where the only survivors are vicious robotic guard-dogs. The series finishes off with 'Black Museum', where a young woman enters a once-popular museum that is now more-or-less desolate. The owner begins to narrate stories on all

the artefacts. The ending of this one will shock the most talented soothsayers and is easily one of the most interesting Black Mirror episodes since the show's inception. Watch this show, all its seasons, and I guarantee that your worldview will never be the same again. **U**

DID YOU KNOW?

The term Black Mirror is symbolic of present-day technology. If you stare at your phone, TV, or tablet, it resembles a black mirror - dark, cold, and terrifying in its blank state.