



# WATCHING A K-DRAMA FOR THE FIRST TIME

KIM

The incessant chatter around me about Korean dramas made me curious as to what exactly makes these dramas so special, so I decided to actually watch one.

While searching for a drama to watch, the first thing I realised was that the episodes of almost every drama were at least an hour long each and they never went on for many seasons, hence saving the sanity of both viewers and writers.

"It's Okay, That's Love" caught my interest since it was the story of a novelist and a psychiatrist falling in love. It starts off with an indoor pool scene that makes it utterly obvious that it was filmed on a set. The show quickly takes a violent turn with a fight scene accompanied by what I can only describe as slow romantic music. This inappropriate use of soft-hearted music during serious scenes baffled me at first but I later realised that the point was to not make the drama as dark as it had the potential to be.

It also quickly became apparent that characters in K-dramas are slightly more hostile than what we're used to in Hollywood. Shouting at each other when even mildly irritated is a norm and not considered offensive. Hitting or shoving people, breaking things, and causing havoc seemed completely natural.

The drama also seemed to have taken cue from Hindi serials and used overly dramatic slow-motion scenes of people turning around or falling over. There was no way I could take the slow-motion scenes seriously but it did add a comedic factor to the drama.

Humour is subjective but I can safely say that the humour in K-dramas is very different from what we see in American TV shows. Eccentric behaviour is the key to comedy in this drama. There were characters whose sole purpose was to be foolish and care-free. It was more about laughing at the characters rather than laughing at any jokes they cracked.

The romance is surely the highlight of this drama, as with most K-dramas. Similar to a lot of English rom-coms, the story is cheesy. However, it's the kind of cheesy you'll actually enjoy and then curse yourself for it. This drama has a unique meet cute between the male and female protagonist on a talk show which I shamelessly enjoyed. Even though romantic scenes were abundant, they seemed, to me, a bit more conservative than the scenes in any American TV show.

The drama sheds light on a lot of mental disorders like schizophrenia, depression, and Tourette syndrome since some of the characters are psychiatrists. It was unusual how such serious issues were introduced in a setting that doesn't really accommodate them.

The witty dialogue, tacky romance, and eccentric characters did not convert me into a K-drama fan but I'm glad I gave it a shot and can proudly say it wasn't a complete waste of my time.

# What it's like not being a Potterhead

TARZAN

*To be honest, a decent portion of my life was spent trying to get familiar with the charm of the series without reading or watching the Harry Potter series. Though many reasons behind the failure are unknown, one of them, to me and many, is surely the fact that it is overhyped. Here's what life is like through the eyes of someone who is not a Potterhead.*

## YOU CANNOT JOIN THE HP CENTRIC CONVERSATIONS

You know what it's like to have the company of your phone when such conversations erupt around you, pushing you out of the ring. It is like a blessing. Surfing the internet is better than just listening to some people talk about a completely different world that's not going to be a reality anytime soon. Though I failed miserably, I tried to *Slytherin* to the conversations sometimes with my little HP knowledge, which is, Voldemort is the one without a nose.

## YOU RECEIVE SHOCKING STARES

Be it your peers or younger cousins who have already planned their visit to Hogwarts, you are sure to be met with an open-mouthed reaction. Once you say you have never read or watched Harry Potter (or even if you have that you aren't a fan) your Potterhead acquaintances will ambush you and try to extract from you the reasons as to why you never took the initiative and disliked it. Then they will

bombard you with questions you can never answer and requests you can always deny. Like, "You should read the books. They will change your life." As for me, I thought for a minute or two when I got such requests about giving it a chance, but I never got that involuntary feeling to be a part of the universe.

## YOU ARE CLUELESS ABOUT THE HOUSE YOU BELONG TO

Well, you know houses exist in Harry Potter partly because of the internet and partly because of the known people who ask you about yours. You are never thrilled by the prospect of belonging to a specific house and relating to their characteristics.

## YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR PATRONUS

Like being unaware of the house you belong to, you don't know what your Patronus is. Even though you don't know what a Patronus is, it's totally cool in a world that believes getting a letter from Hogwarts is only a placebo.

## YOU FIND THE ABNORMAL OBSESSION AMONG FANS ANNOYING

There are people who like Harry Potter for the worldbuilding. There are people who just LOVE it. Then there are people who find it absolutely necessary to obsess over it everywhere — be it by flaunting their fake Hogwarts letter or by fawning over the never ending illustrated editions of the same damn book. The third group is very annoying. Their immoderate level of obsession is what keeps many at bay from the HP universe.

We, the non-Potterheads, have always been guaranteed that we will fall in love with the Harry Potter series. We have often been asked to give it a go. But we probably will never be fans of it. The feeling maybe is not meant to exist, just like Voldemort's nose.

*Tarzan lives in the jungle in hopes that no giant corporation will destroy its peace. By trying to reach out to him, you shouldn't too.*

