

"FROM" RECAP: 'THERE AND BACK AGAIN'

By David Miller

HOLLYWOOD—Answers, that is what I wanted this week. I wanted answers to the numerous questions I had after last week's episode of "From." Yes, the ambulance that was carrying Tabitha, Victor's father, two EMS workers and a police officer was about to arrive in 'Fromville' much to Tabitha's chagrin. I don't recall a ton of ravens though with that mysterious tree in the road. I almost feel like if they find a way to move the tree or continue on the road they could find salvation.

Ethan accepted a phone call from our mysterious creatures acting like 'Thomas' that his mother was in danger and about to return back to the mysterious town. Jim took over and an ominous warning was made that his 'children' were no longer his. Back at Colony House, Donna and company were cleaning the property after that 'Raven' crashing through the window after Tillie was trying to read Fatima's future. There is more to discuss on Fatima and it's not good people.

Sarah was truly getting some valuable intel from Victor and his past. In particular, him playing with his sister. Gosh, I wish I could just peak into Victor's brain; he knows so much about this place. Hmm, Victor has blocked what transpired with his mother and her trying to rescue the kids and the people trapped in 'Fromville.'

The paramedics and police officer started to get rattled about being lost, as Tabitha did her best to explain things without getting them to freak out. Boyd and Randall chatted about the creatures and his plan. Friction was building between Boyd and Randall, as it became clear Randall didn't want to just survive, he wanted to get out. Kenny and Kristie chatted about their predicament out in the woods.



Major blood was spilled in the latest episode of "From." Photo by Valentin Salja.

Victor started to spill about Eloise dying as a result of not listening to their mother. After staying in the root cellar he met 'The Boy in White' and his mission to bury everyone who was killed that 'night.' Victor grabbed all the precious items which he kept in his suitcase, instead of burying. Ok, we're getting vital information. Boyd realized that Randall studied the creatures and how they have a routine they follow at night which is beyond critical!

Tabitha tried to get the ambulance to stop, but it kept going which worried Boyd and Randall. Ethan ran out of the home, and Jim went after him. The 'nurse' posed as an injured party, taking out both paramedics in the process as the police officer fired shots realizing she is dealing with something not human. Jim went after Tabitha and Henry. Boyd and Randall were stunned to see Tabitha back in town.

The police officer made her way to

Colony House as she fired at the creatures, accidentally firing a bullet at one of the residents that Marielle tried to save. It was Nicky, someone whose name did not ring a bell at all. The copy was spiraling as Donna was doing her best to reason with the copy. Randall retrieved the tool kit as he did his best to assist Boyd, but was surrounded by the creatures, and stopped by a bunch of flying bugs.

The 'nurse' provided Boyd with the keys, but only if he sacrificed Randall. I'm sorry Boyd, you could have driven that ambulance around and tried to strike those creatures giving Randall some sort of escape. Donna and company were stunned to see Tabitha in the flesh, just as Boyd flipped out after seeing Nicky shot. Tillie disclosed that she is worried about Tabitha, just as it became present that LJ was seeing ghostly visions, one that asked for his help.

Ethan is becoming more pessimistic each day, as he asked Julie why she has been different. Uh oh, Ethan even realizes that something is off with his older sister, who admitted that she was really scared. What? Jade spilled to Kristi and Kenny that he's been seeing ghostly visitors since he arrived in town. Victor started to recall more memories about the bloodbath that happened when he was little. We heard about Christopher, a kid who started to see the symbol. Whoa, could this be a sign of what is to come for Jade? Victor started to unravel as Sarah tried to calm him down, as he called a puppet named Jasper.

Tabitha explained the guy who she was with is Victor's father. Nicky ultimately succumbed to the bullet she sustained. It left all rattled. Damn, Harold Perrineau is a fantastic actor. Donna broke down as she tried to calm the chaos. Yes, Donna who has been a pillar of strength is fracturing more and more each day.

Christopher brought levity to the people trapped in 'Fromville' and that Christopher's changes ultimately led to Victor spotting 'Jasper' talking to Christopher explaining the "WHY" of it all! Fatima is absolutely one of those creatures, as she started to drink and eat Nicky's blood. Tillie, you need to spill to others what is unfolding before it's too late.

As Boyd and Donna shared a drink, they were distracted by ambulance lights, that showed a bloody Randall. Yeah the creatures feasted, but guess what, Randall was not dead! Oh, some bad blood is about to erupt between these two, as I think we learn what happens if a person survives an attack? Do they become one of the creatures? Gosh, I have to wait till next Sunday for more answers!

"JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX" IS A MIXED BAG OF CHAOS

By David Miller

HOLLYWOOD—When Todd Phillips released his 2019 film, "Joker" it was something to be studied. It was unlike anything I've ever seen in cinema. I remember watching this movie in the theater and being unnerved. There was a nervousness about the film as if it would spawn people to react in strange ways. I remember one guy in the theater just giving off the oddest vibes as the movie unfolded.

The acting was near perfection for Joaquin Phoenix who earned a Best Actor Oscar for his riveting work (and it was well deserved). Director Todd Phillips picked up a Best Director and Best Picture nomination as well. The viewer was watching the mental breakdown of a character and how society treats them as a result. With that said, it was a perfect movie, but Hollywood being Hollywood, when a movie makes a lot of money the assumption is a sequel must made.

Cue the violin for "Joker: Folie a Deux"

because it is a mixed bag of cinema that I am still trying to wrap my mind around. I am trying to place myself into the mind of director Todd Phillips and truly examine the end goal of this sequel. Was it to tackle a larger issue about mental health? Was it to examine how some people are heavily influenced by the behavior and actions of others who they deem 'heroes' in their eyes. Is it to take a look at how the legal system at times can allow some of the most heinous criminals to get away with crimes because of the ability to plead insanity?

I had a ton of questions after watching the movie that I think most spectators would warrant. What was the end goal? That was the biggest question I had far more questions after the movie's ending and I still cannot give you an answer. The narrative is pretty straight forward as it follows Arthur Fleck (Phoenix) as he is preparing for trial while being secured at

Arkham State Hospital.

Fleck is the most integral and important person of the movie because while it feels a ton of layers of the character that made him so riveting from the previous film are stripped down here, Phoenix still brings meat to the performance that is intriguing. I seriously don't understand the introduction of Lady Gaga as Harleen 'Lee' Quinzel, a patient at Arkham, who catches Arthur's eye and they have this sort of infatuation with one another that is mesmerizing, but also annoying to witness at the same time. All is not as it appears with Lee which Arthur discovers as the movie unfolds. Now the musical aspect. I kept hearing so much about how the movie is a musical, and I would almost argue against it.

Yes, there are some musical numbers, but they feel more like a 'scene' played out in Arthur's head. I didn't get "musical" watching these numbers, I got there are

some scenes where people sing a bit and dance a bit, but it didn't feel like an over-the-top extravaganza as you tend to see with so many musicals from the past and present. It didn't bother me, to be honest, I was able to eliminate the musical moments from the narrative and just focus on that element.

There is violence, but it feels slightly tame in this sequel compared to the previous movie, but I will argue Phillips continues to leave that notion up in the air on whether what the audience is seeing is all real or just a figment of Arthur's imagination. Is this what Arthur wants us to see or what he thinks we shall see. I dare even say this, but "Joker: Folie a Deux" is a film that deserves more than one watch to fully examine what is unfolding and its overall message. I didn't hate the movie, but I didn't love it either, it falls right in the middle where I would say, see the movie at your own risk.