

TELEVISION

Netflix's 'Seven Seconds' is chilling but predictable



Kelly Lawler
Columnist
USA TODAY

Seven Seconds is enough time to change lives, or end them.

That's the story behind the title of Netflix's latest crime drama (streaming now, ★★☆☆), the first season of a planned anthology from *The Killing* creator Veena Sud.

Like AMC's *The Killing*, *Seconds* is focused on one crime and its ripple effects, and its protagonist is a driven female investigator, this time an assistant prosecutor named K.J. Harper (Clare-Hope Ashitey). But *Seven Seconds* has neither the addictive quality nor the gravity of Sud's former drama. And while it tries to make big statements about police and race relations in



Jablonski (Beau Knapp) looks for cover from DiAngelo (David Lyons). NETFLIX

America, it gets lost in a sea of unlikable characters and predictable plot lines.

Seconds covers the aftermath of a hit-and-run accident (which lasts about

seven seconds) in which an off-duty white cop in Jersey City, Peter Jablonski (Beau Knapp), strikes a black, bike-riding teenager in a park. Instead of reporting the accident, Jablonski calls friends on the force, who help him cover up the crime and leave the teen bleeding in the snow. He dies in the hospital, mourned by his mother, Latrice (an underused Regina King), and father, Isaiah (Russell Hornsby). The detective on the case, Joe "Fish" Rinaldi (Michael Mosley), is eager to write it off, insisting the victim is "just a (gang) banger." But K.J. suspects there's something more.

The series is populated with stock characters and situations. The cops who help Jablonski are mostly corrupt white Italian-Americans with thick Jersey accents. Latrice and Isaiah are lower-middle-class churchgoers with roots in the projects. The cops are sexist and make

derogatory comments about K.J., even when she's in the room.

Seconds spends so much time trying to create moral gray areas for its characters that it ends up painting them all with the same brush. Jablonski is remorseful for what he's done, but he's angry and borderline abusive to his wife and relatives. K.J. is the only crusader for justice, but she's a (barely) functioning alcoholic who drops the ball on other cases.

If *Seconds* has a true villain, it's the system. The series does make its point: that nothing is fair and the institutions designed to protect us are broken, even if it does so with a heavy hand. It's hard not to be reminded of ABC's superior *American Crime*, which more deftly handled complex social issues and told a better story in the process.

If only there were a little more depth behind those *Seven Seconds*.

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Race: Hispanic
Missing: Jun 14, 2017
Age Now: 16 Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
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EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Fred Piscop

GETTING SASSY

ACROSS

- Does a general's job
- Website for auction snipers
- Waze display
- North of Iran-Contra, familiarly
- Movie pal of Stitch
- Banjoist Fleck
- It's invested by experts
- Sulfur dioxide feature
- Gets into shape
- Gin cocktail, for short
- Kegs' contents
- "Opposites attract" is one
- Many a smartphone photo
- Swimmer's woe
- Lagoon's boundary
- Persuade with smooth talk
- Perry in the Trump Cabinet
- French Sudan, today
- Marie with two Nobels
- Optimist's words
- Hard shot, in hockey
- Labor leader I.W.
- Pointy-hatted garden statuette
- Deviled eggs morsel
- "Maybe later"
- Lesley of "60 Minutes"
- Fizz flavoring
- Philippine tongue
- Puts into like groups
- Sikorsky of aviation
- Much of a produce aisle
- Litter castoff, often
- Brubeck's "Take ___"
- Protractor's measurement

DOWN

- Beyond salvation
- Sailors' patron saint
- One of the Aldas
- In ___ straits (desperate)
- Begin a cruise
- Wed like Romeo and Juliet
- Sin ___ (penalty box)
- "Island in the Sun" novelist Waugh
- Toy that "sleeps"
- Word with mixed or social
- "Moving right ___"
- Analyze in grammar class
- Lettering that stands out
- Wagon train puller
- Beat a hasty retreat
- Ballpark officials

66 Cloak-and-dagger figure

67 Exchange verbal zingers

68 Fix, as a seam

25 ___ Club (Costco rival)

26 "And others," briefly

27 "Damn Yankees" temptress

28 Visual aid on an easel

30 One way to commute

31 Lizzie Borden's weapon

33 Aptly named Nissan

35 One to look up to

36 Painter's outfit, for short

37 Had down cold

39 Salary max

43 Is a big success

45 ___-nighter (cramming session)

46 Grab a snack

47 Tends to the sauce

48 Touch base after a flyout

49 "... the ___ of defeat"

51 Word before pointer or printer

53 Whacks, mob-style

54 Racket or club part

56 Caen's river

57 Toupees, slangily

58 Mah-jongg piece

59 One-pot entree

62 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" girl

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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 2/27

Find and Circle:
Eight Western Hemisphere countries
Three school subjects
Two forms of matter
Two four-letter currencies
Male parent

Monday's answer: SALMON SHARK SMELT SOLE / SHIFTY NIFTY HEFTY LOFTY / PARAKEET PHEASANT FLAMINGO / LISA MARIE PRESLEY / ALLEGRO

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 2/27

---> sidekick in "Batman"

Stick in the fridge?

Groan

Adam West's --->

Infant's former home

Matty, Manny, Felipe or Moises

Backside

Ed Sheeran song

Monday's Answer
JETS
ARIA
KING
ENYA

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

1 3 9 4 2
4 5 2 8
2 1 8 9
7 4 2 9 6 7 4
4 8 7 1
3 2 5 8 4

2/27 DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

1 5 2 6
3
4 2 5 1
6 1 4 3
5 6 3 4

2/26 DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Monday's Answer
9 5 4 2 1 3 8 7 6
3 6 1 4 8 7 9 2 5
8 7 2 5 9 6 1 4 3
5 9 8 3 7 1 4 6 2
6 1 3 9 2 4 7 5 8
4 2 7 6 5 8 3 1 9
7 8 6 1 3 5 2 9 4
2 3 5 7 4 9 6 8 1
1 4 9 8 6 2 5 3 7

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UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 2/27

1. GET

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

SMITH

Clues:
1. Manage
2. Without a machine, e.g.
3. Relinquish
4. Done
5. Affectionately
6. "___ Keep Us Together"
7. "Hitch" star

Monday's Answer
FANNY / PACK / ANIMAL / ANIMAL / HOUSE / GUEST / ROOM / ROOM / KEY / PACK / ANIMAL / HOUSE / GUEST / ROOM / KEY / POINT

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TXTPERT

Across
1. 8377437
4. 62526883
6. 726
8. 273
10. 5466
11. 363

Down
1. 82627463
2. 7626
3. 728
5. 376463
7. 6263
9. 355

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Today's theme
Animals

1 aa 2 abc 3 def
4 ghi 5 jkl 6 mno
7 pqr 8 tuv 9 wxyz

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST

Yesterday's solution

DON'T QUOTE ME

English author Gilbert K. Chesterton thinks about relationships.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
ENEMIES FRIENDS GOD MAKE NEIGHBOR NEXT-DOOR WE

MAKE OUR _____ ; WE _____ ;
BUT _____ MAKES OUR _____

Monday's Answer: "Sometimes the only way to become grounded is to hit bottom." - Mason Cooley

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