

What's the deal with the Guilty Remnant?

1 message

Michelle Jaworski <newsletters@dailydot.com>

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 11:53 AM

Reply-To: Michelle Jaworski <newsletters@dailydot.com>



Wednesday, June 17, 2020

[View this email in your browser](#)

Warning: This newsletter contains spoilers up to the first six episodes of *The Leftovers*.
Wondering why you're getting this? Catch up here with ***Streaming TV Party***'s previous newsletters.

Introduction: [Streaming TV Party: We're watching *The Leftovers*](#)

Season 1: ["Pilot" and "Penguin One, Us Zero"; "Two Boats and a Helicopter" and "B.J. and the A.C."](#)

What's the Deal With the Guilty Remnant, Anyway?

If you've been following me for a while, you might know that I'm something of a fervent defender of the *Lost* ending. Did everything work? Probably not. Did I wish more stuff got answered? Certainly. Do I wish that the showrunners had been more forthcoming about making some things up as they went along? It would've been nice! But *Lost* absolutely nailed the emotional depth of its characters, and when a show gets that right, I'm willing to forgive a lot of shortcomings, even some of the more ill-conceived ones that a show might provide. (I suspect this is why so much of [Game of Thrones' finale](#) didn't [work](#).) I mention my proclivity for stories steeped in character even to the detriment of leaving a few things unturned upfront because, as much as I'm thoroughly enjoying *The Leftovers* so far, I just have so many questions about the Guilty Remnant.

Six episodes in, *The Leftovers* doesn't seem entirely interested in providing answers to every single quirk presented in the world left behind by the Sudden Departure. We know little about the Guilty Remnant aside from simple observation, bits and pieces we catch from the outside, and Meg's (Liv Tyler) gradual initiation process. And given a staple of the Guilty Remnant, with the exception of Patti (the fantastic Ann Dowd) on occasion, is a strict vow of silence, it's hard to see many of them offering up a TL;DR to the rest of us. But still. I have questions; some of these are sillier than others. Indulge me for a moment.

Some of the cult's philosophies all feel like the kinds of topics that might be explored later on. Why don't they speak? Why do they wear so much white? What's their purpose? What's the hierarchy? What do their shifts creepily staring at people's homes look like, and how many homes do they tackle at a time? Tom encountered two members of the Guilty Remnant in "B.J. and the A.C.," and the [ATFEC](#) (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives, and Cults) agent who's called to intervene in the MPD's investigation into Gladys' death is more than familiar with the Guilty Remnant. So it doesn't take much to presume that there are Guilty Remnant chapters across the U.S. So how many chapters?

Right now? I want to know where the money comes from. From what we've seen so far, none of the Guilty Remnant holds a normal (or even abnormal) job, they don't have any worldly possessions, and they spend most of their days and nights silently glaring and smoking outside the homes of those who lost loved ones in the Sudden Departure. How do they afford entirely white wardrobes for everyone? What of the bleach involved to keep their white clothes pristine, especially when other people keep bloodying and muddying them up? If the ATFEC hadn't claimed Gladys, what would the Guilty Remnant have done with her body? And seriously, how on Earth do they all support their cigarette habits? Those things are expensive as hell.

Shudder is a streaming service made just for horror junkies, with everything from original programming (Shudder's *As Above, So Below*) to the best of classic B-junkies with plenty of new everything in between.

Nora's Strange Trip Down the Rabbit Hole

“Guest” is largely a character study about life, loss, grief, and identity that starts to crack open the utter enigma that is Nora Durst. Nora isn’t an enigma because she’s needlessly complicated but rather because, no matter what viewpoint we got into Nora’s life, it was always through the lens of the Sudden Departure.

Her trip to the other side doesn't last, of course. Nora finds out who stole her badge (but not before nearly getting arrested because of damage the imposter caused), blows up at an author who lost four family members and seems fine, and visits Holy Wayne, who offers to take her pain away (but assures her that she'll still be able to remember her family). The end result is something even more fascinating: She's still more or less the same Nora, but the weight of her own grief is no longer suffocating her every move.

Recommended

With a great soundtrack, visuals, and performances all around, Spike Lee's new joint [Da 5 Bloods](#) should be on your watchlist.

[The Vast of Night](#) taps into the feel of *The Twilight Zone* with a stylish 50s-era sci-fi film.

Learn the art of storytelling on film with documentary creator Ken Burns in this [remarkable class](#).*

*Sponsored

[Start Learning Now](#)

Kevin Garvey Is Great... In Small Doses

The very end of “Guest,” in which Kevin and Nora agree to go on a date with each other, gave me the realization that I only like Kevin when he's not the main player. Which does get in the way whenever *The Leftovers* remembers that Kevin is the main character.

How much is my general annoyance with him based on the character itself and how much of it is because of how this season of television from 2014 [speaks to today](#)? I'm not sure; I'm having a similar disconnect with Jack Shephard, a character that has a lot of thematic connective tissue with Kevin, in my *Lost* rewatch. I do hope that changes because, even this early, it's evident he's the center of a lot of the series.

Even as he starts to leave parts of his old life behind—such as finalizing his divorce with Laurie—and starts anew, it's hard to see where he's coming from when, for instance, his police uniform shirts disappear and his eventual reaction is to intimidate and bully the two Indian employees at the dry cleaners until they give him the first set of white shirts they can find.

Discussion Questions

Is Holy Wayne the real deal or a charlatan? Or something in the middle?

How do you think the fake Nora Durst broke the mirror in the bar?

Is the government facility where Gladys is cremated part of a massive conspiracy, or is it just designed to look that way?

Next Week: Be sure to watch up to episodes 7 and 8, “Solace for Tired Feet” and “Cairo,” respectively. (“Cairo” features a depiction of suicide, so take any precautions you might need to watch or avoid. For more information about suicide prevention or to speak with someone confidentially, contact the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (U.S.) or [Samaritans](#) (U.K.).)

Quote of the week

“I try not to read anything that comes in a fuckin’ tote.”

—DROP conference attendee on ***What’s Next***, the book written by someone who lost four family members in the Sudden Departure

The Leftovers 1x06, "Guest"

Now playing: [Agnes Obel — "Pass Them By"](#)

Thoughts? Contact me at newsletters@dailydot.com and drop me a reader's note: We just might include it next time.



Copyright © 2020 The Daily Dot, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up to get the inside scoop on internet culture from the Daily Dot.

Our mailing address is:

The Daily Dot
[3112 Windsor Rd Ste A-391](#)
Austin, TX 78703-2350

[Add us to your address book](#)

Let’s communicate better!

We appreciate your membership to the Daily Dot community and will only send emails you want.

[Click here](#) to manage your email preferences—it's as easy as checking boxes.

Want to remove yourself entirely from the Daily Dot community? [Click here](#) to unsubscribe from everything—we understand, but it won’t be the same without you!