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# Reviews Central

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## Review

### Star Ratings Explained

- ★★★★★ Classic
- ★★★★☆ Excellent
- ★★★☆☆ Good
- ★★★☆☆ Fair
- ★★☆☆☆ Tragic

### Film Details

#### Rating

M

#### Cast

Noni Hazlehurst  
Leeanna Walsman  
Gary Sweet  
Christopher Weekes.

#### Directors

#### Screenwriters

#### Running Time

90 minutes

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★★★★☆

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★★★★★

## Bitter & Twisted (M)

★★★★☆

### Plot

In the wake of the death of their eldest son, a suburban family struggles to free itself from grief.

### Empire Review

Aussie suburban dramas usually overplay angst and brutality but Bitter & Twisted is grounded in a rare realism and emotional truth. Not that it's easy viewing, with blue singlets, fisticuffs and shouting matches replaced with the more terrifying spectre of endless isolation, desperation and grief. The film exists in a stasis caused by the death of the Lombard family's eldest son, Liam. Also trapped in the quagmire is his ex-girlfriend, Indigo. Carefully framed and edited, this is confident cinema, downbeat yet hopeful, whose cast (which also includes absurdly talented writer-director 28-year-old Weekes) are note perfect.

### Verdict

Tough, wrenching drama with excellent performances and a welcome realism.

★★★★☆

Reviewer: Michael Adams

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