Peacock's new series 'The Miniature Wife' falls flat

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The new dramatic comedy series "The Miniature Wife" premiered on Peacock on April 9, advertising a bizarre plot.

The series stars Elizabeth Banks ("The Hunger Games," "Pitch Perfect") and Matthew Macfadyen ("Succession") as Lindy and Les, a married couple whose relationship is on the rocks.

Les and Lindy have been married for 20 years and struggling for several. Lindy, a Pulitzer-prize winning novelist, used the money from her novel and its film adaptation to purchase Les's dream mansion and sports car, essentially shrinking herself to allow him room to shine.

Les, a miniaturist, accidentally (or perhaps not so accidentally) shrinks Lindy using one of his inventions during a heated argument and is left scrambling to figure out how to reverse the process without killing her.

Based on the short story by Manuel Gonzalez, the series relies heavily on its unique, almost surreal premise. Ultimately, the story is meant to explore power, control and emotional distance within a failing marriage.

However, despite this uniquely strong foundation, the execution fails to deliver.

The pacing is noticeably slow, with extended scenes that drag on without adding meaningful development to neither the plot nor the characters. What initially feels intriguing and offbeat quickly becomes difficult to stay engaged with, as the narrative slugs along instead of escalating.

Banks's performance is notable, however. She is able to expertly balance vulnerability with comedic timing as Lindy grapples with her increasingly powerless state. Macfadyen demonstrates his ability to lean into Les's awkwardness and underlying selfishness and create a character that is somehow both pitiable and deeply frustrating.

Visually, the show embraces its premise with careful attention to scale and detail, particularly in scenes that highlight Lindy's perspective.

Yet even these moments, which should heighten the show's tension and creativity, often feel like stylistic flourishes rather than drivers of the story.

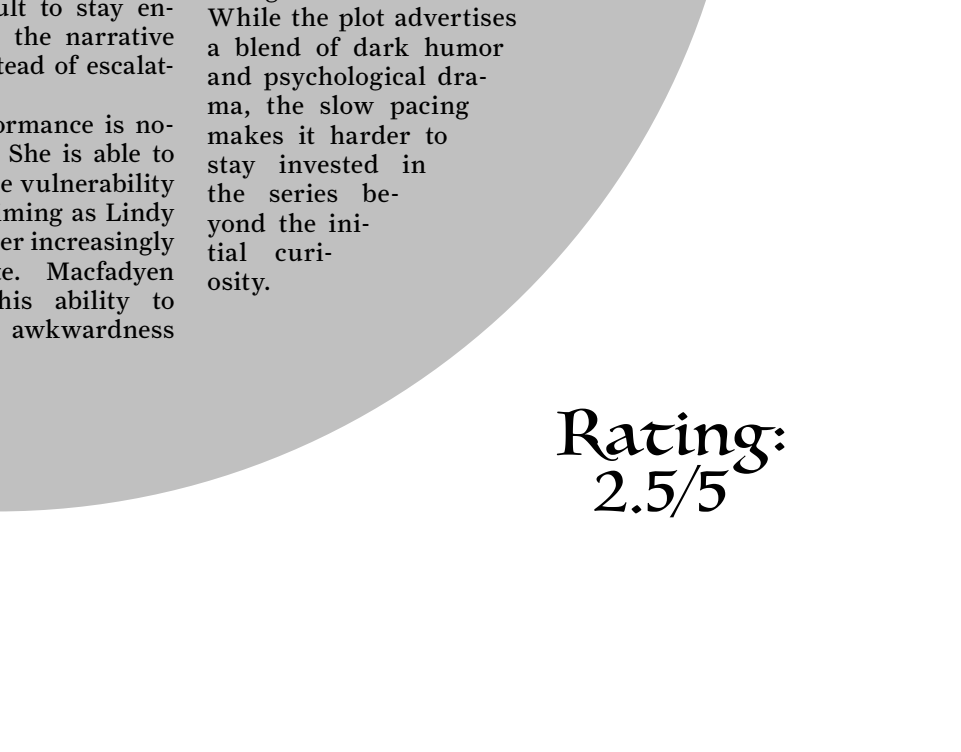
"The Miniature Wife" stands out for its originality, but originality alone isn't enough to sustain a series. While the plot advertises a blend of dark humor and psychological drama, the slow pacing makes it harder to stay invested in the series beyond the initial curiosity.

Rating: 2.5/5



Elizabeth Banks at the premiere of "The Miniature Wife" on Peacock. The series premiered on April 9.

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Sofia Rosinsky at the premiere for "The Miniature Wife" on Peacock. The series premiered on April 9.

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