2017

A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Reptile Room: Part One

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Violet, Klaus and Sunny are now with Dr. Montgomery Montgomery. He’s an expert in reptiles and very strange. Even though the Baudelaires’ are supposed to be with their closest living relative, they suspect Montgomery is not related to them at all. As they are getting to know him and getting to be themselves and be in a safe and loving place, a new assistant for Montgomery shows up, which is actually Count Olaf. Violet and Klaus try to tell Montgomery who the new assistant is, but he won’t let them finish their sentences. Montgomery doesn’t trust his new assistant and takes him with them to the movies. While there, Montgomery takes out a spy glass during the movie decodes a message saying to take the children to Peru. He disappears near the end of the movie but Violet and Klaus find him and they head home to pack for Peru. Count Olaf wasn’t invited back to the house, but he won’t stop until he gets the fortune.

Neil Patrick Harris does a wonderful job using several different disguises and voices. As an assistant with a funny voice and a beard, Count Olaf is cunning and charming. Dr. Montgomery Montgomery is a bit strange and different, but he’s a good guy and wants to help Violet, Klaus and Sunny. His excitement and fascination of the different types of reptiles he has and what they do, what they look like, and where they’re from is contagious. Viewers will want to know if everything Dr. Montgomery says is true and what else there is to learn. When he produces his spy glass and finds clues, it makes things a little clearer while adding more mystery and giving you a taste of what the spy glasses are for. Viewers will hope that Klaus will see him using it and connect the dots to his own piece of the spy glass he found. Thematically, this show and episode demonstrate an interesting contrast between good people and bad people. Just because people have secrets and are strange doesn’t mean they are bad; just because people are open and tell you everything doesn’t mean their good either.

*Contains mild violence