



# CARROLL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER LAUNCHES NEW ADOPTION PROGRAM

**KESHAWN ALLEN**  
*Contributing Writer*

Many dogs in Carroll County are either homeless or stuck living in the shelter, having to live amongst other dogs who haven't been adopted. With many different attempts to get dogs adopted, the Carroll County Animal Shelter has discovered a way to help the dogs get adopted much quicker. They founded the Come-Over-Rover program. This program promotes and influences dog adoption by allowing volunteers to take a dog from the shelter and take it out for a day to inform locals about the number of dogs that need to be adopted.

The way that Come-Over-Rover works is that volunteers, who are typically residents of Carroll County, come to the shelter and inform the staff that they would like to participate. Then they are allowed to take a dog that is over four months old and take care of them until the shelter closes.

What the volunteers will do during the day is bring the dogs around people they know, such as friends and relatives, allowing the dogs to get a new environment they are not used to. Volunteers will also inform those around them about the Come-Over-Rover program and how they help raise

awareness for the dogs that are in need of a new home. After the day has been done, the volunteers will bring the dog back to the Carroll County Animal Shelter, where they will be taken care of until the dogs get adopted.

"It's mostly for socializing the dogs, learning more about the dogs," says Administrative Assistant Shelby Duren. "Here they're in their cages all the time. They do get walked around, but they're not exposed to different things like children's loud noises. So, that really kind of helps them adjust to things."

By partaking in this, volunteers help the employees at the animal shelter better work with the animals to prepare them to get adopted by families by giving them feedback on what they observed with the dogs.

This event was first initiated in the fall of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic affected the world negatively, causing everyone to be afraid to leave their homes. This program provides a much simpler way for residents in Carroll County to find the right dog for them. Instead of going to a shelter where there would be tons of people trying to

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get the same dog, residents could get a one-on-one experience with the dog to figure out if that dog is for them. Since the pandemic, this program has allowed many dogs to be adopted.

Another thing that makes this event special is that the Come-Over-Rover program is an everyday event. Instead of relying on a specific day of the week or weekend, anyone who wants to become a volunteer can come any day the shelter is open and take care of a dog for a day. Currently, there are about 60 to 70 dogs in the shelter that are still in need of a permanent home. More information can be found on their webpage at [www.carrollcountyga.com](http://www.carrollcountyga.com).

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# NETFLIX'S MEA CULPA LEAVES AUDIENCE CONFUSED WITH MULTIPLE PLOT LINES

**BREANNA TILLIE**  
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Human beings are often well-intentioned, but wildly imperfect. People are constantly trying to do what is right yet slipping up, trying to please the people in their lives yet letting them down, constantly making mistakes and apologizing, all while judging everyone else for doing the same thing.

This is why drama within film and television is so sought-after. Dramas showcase the relatable and messy complexities of the human experience, allowing viewers to both analyze and judge the situations that the characters get themselves into, all while doing major introspective reflection on the choices they make in their own lives.

A new drama "Mea Culpa" was released by Netflix on Feb. 24 after being promoted as a legal drama. The film features a defense attorney, Mea Harper, who takes on a case defending a man named Zyair Malloy. Zyair has been accused of killing his missing girlfriend. Although Mea's husband, Kal, does not want her to defend Zyair, Kal has been out of work for months and Mea insists that the couple needs the money.

While this is the running plot, the movie also features a subplot of Mea and Kal having marital problems due to rumors of Kal being unfaithful and the hostile relationship between Mea and Kal's mother. The problems in the marriage reach an all-time high after Mea cheats on Kal with Zyair after mistakenly believing that he cheated first due to a misunderstanding.

Ratings and reviews for "Mea Culpa" have overall been quite poor across platforms, largely due to how much is happening within the plot. It is unclear if this is supposed to be the legal drama it was advertised as because not only were there no scenes that took place in a courtroom, but the subplots seemed to take up as much time in the movie as the primary plot.

Additionally, there was very little chemistry between any of the characters in the movie. While there was certainly potential for complexity in many of the characters, the movie's script was too much of what one would expect in a soap opera to explore any of the depth that these characters possessed. The movie mentions Kal being unemployed due to addiction

problems, yet never explores why he had these problems. The movie features a friendship between Mea and Kal's sister-in-law Charlise, but the friendship is underdeveloped and contributes nothing positive to the story.

However, the movie does shed light on interesting subjects that can lead to productive discussions among viewers. The marital problems between Mea and Kal largely stem from how overbearing and opinionated Kal's mother is about Mea and how Kal does so little to defend her. Mea mentions that she always desired a man who loved his mother, yet the extent to which Kal goes to affirm his mother

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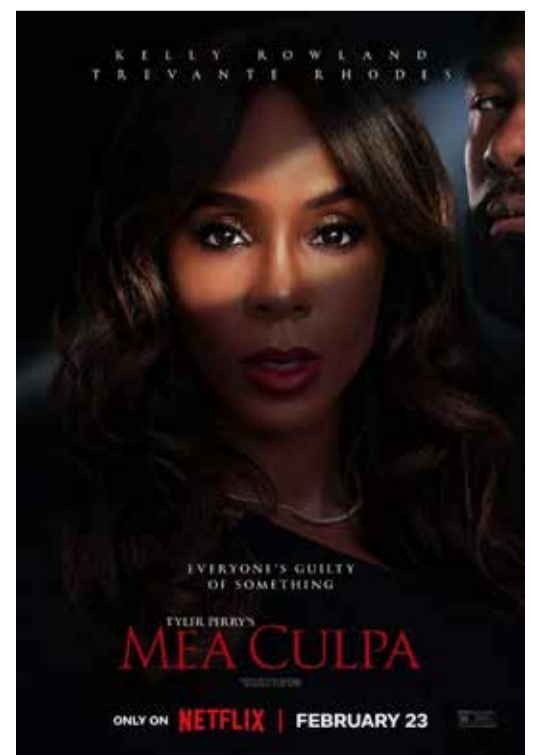


Photo courtesy of Netflix

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is ridiculous. This presents interesting questions to explore. What should the boundary be regarding parental involvement in a relationship? How does one strike a balance between respecting their parents and honoring their spouse? Is a relationship with a person that has a difficult family worth staying in?

Though Mea is the protagonist of the film, she is certainly not to be regarded as a perfect character because she does cheat on her husband. However, she only does this because she believes he cheated first. This can spark an interesting conversation on whether cheating can ever be considered forgivable or at the very least understandable.

While most will likely still condemn cheating as morally reprehensible no matter what, a film like this one where the protagonist does cheat can provide additional perspective.

Overall, while this movie is high on drama and does explore interesting themes and topics, there may be other films that do a far better job with it by having a less scattered plot and more character development.

## NETFLIX'S LIVE ACTION AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER ADAPTATION

**JEFF IGBOKWE**  
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Netflix's ambitious venture into live action-adaptation with *Avatar: The Last Airbender* has been met with high expectations from fans of Nickelodeon's beloved 2005 animated series. Despite the potential for a modern take on the fan-favorite franchise, and far from the disaster that was M. Night Shyamalan's poorly received 2010 movie, Netflix's reimagination of the series, led by Albert Kim as showrunner and writer, may leave die-hard fans wishing Netflix had left Nickelodeon's show alone, as it fails to capture the magic that made the original a timeless classic.

*Avatar: The Last Airbender* is set in Asiatic, a world where certain individuals are able to control one of the four classic elements being water, earth, fire or air using a technique called "Bending". Aang (Gordon Cormier) is able to bend all four elements, and is prophesied to become the "Avatar," bringing balance to the world from the Fire Nation, led by the Fire Lord Sozin (Hiro Kanagawa). With his new companions Katara (Kiawentiio Tarbell) and Sokka (Ian Ousley), Aang sets out to master the four elements while being hunted by the exiled Fire Nation Prince Zuko (Dallas Liu), who aims to regain his honor by capturing the Avatar.

One thing you may notice about the show is that you can tell that it was created by a cast and crew who have a lot of love and respect for the original cartoon. If you have even seen still images of the cartoon, it is obvious that Kim has clearly made an attempt to remain faithful to the source material, making the show look as if someone has brought the cartoon characters to life.

There are instances where certain moments from the cartoon are recreated with precise detail, for example, the cartoon's original pilot is essentially remade in live-action. However, one of the biggest issues with the show is that it has been confined to 8 poorly written and watered down episodes as opposed to 20 minute chapters like the first season of the cartoon had. The condensed adaptation of a series can be unforgiving. Unfortunately, Netflix sacrifices crucial character development and world-building as they have to wrap up the first season within eight episodes.

The first couple of episodes run at a very fast pace, seemingly combining arcs from the cartoon which occur separately. These instances leave glaring holes in the patchwork of the original story. For instance, in the Netflix version, Aang's time in the South Pole is cut short. In the original, the scene where Aang and Katara slide down the ice on the backs of penguins

is one of the show's most iconic moments, and is key in building their relationship. While the live-action series gives the two a couple of playful moments together, the absence of this crucial scene means it takes a while for the Netflix version to start building their chemistry.

The writing is amateur at times, and there are instances where the show seems to stop in its tracks for entirely unnecessary exposition or to point out easter eggs for fans of the cartoon. There is a time in the pilot where a character recites the voiceover introduction as a callback to the cartoon if it were a regular thing to say in conversation, however it just feels forced.

The choice of casting actors of Asian

and Indigenous descent, just as they were depicted in the cartoon, is another positive of the show. In an era where representation and authenticity are rightfully prioritized, it is great to see characters portrayed as how they were originally intended to appear, a positive change from the whitewashed 2010 movie. However, there are still issues with the casting. Aside from Liu as Zuko, the younger actors fail to give convincing performances. The adult actors appear to have lowered themselves to what they feel is the level of the production, reciting lines as if they are just learning the English language.

While Netflix's adaptation of the story is not unwatchable and can be enjoyed by fans of the original cartoon as well as newcomers to the franchise, perhaps *Avatar: The Last Airbender* did not need to be adapted again. The original cartoon is a beloved classic, and does not lack in any department. With the original cartoon also available on Netflix, I would recommend watching that instead.



Photo courtesy of Netflix

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