"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

This off beat black comedy revolves around Mildred Hayes' (Frances McDormand) single minded attempt to learn the identity of the man who raped and killed her daughter. It puts the town sheriff Bill Willoughby (Woody Harrelson) on the spot and also turns the town against her. Mildred could care less. She is consumed by a rage which is fueled in part by a regret that will haunt her to her grave. I shall say no more on the story line, as one of the many pleasures of the film is the way it artfully leads you in one direction and then springs surprises when you least expect them.

Here are a few of the highlights of this cinematic high wire act:

Francis McDormand's Oscar winning performance as a fierce and implacable woman who will let nothing stand in the way of her search for her daughter's killer. She is Dirty Harry" on steroids and the last woman in the world you would ever want to cross.

Peter Dinklage's one liner when he excuses himself from the table to use the restroom.

Mildred's drive by verbal hand grenade flung at a local TV reporter

Mildred's scathing comments to the local parish priest when he seeks to counsel her. The human flame thrower shows him no mercy.

Dimwitted police officer Dixon's (Sam Rockwell) attempt to be politically correct when accused of torturing a black prisoner. (Rockwell's performance garnered him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor)

There is more, much more to savor in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri". A true original .

(Amazon Prime)