Sherni: The latest Vidya Balan starrer on Amazon Prime / Sanjiva Sahai

Vidya Balan as and in Sherni

Sherni. The latest movie on Amazon Prime Not as hard hitting as director Amit V. Masurkar's previous one (Newton), but that hardly takes away the sheen from this true-to-life movie. In the same breath, it's NOT meant for everyone. Period. If the killing of animals infuriates your being, if ultra slow unfolding of the story fascinates you, if no-frill acting style makes a great connect, do find time to watch it.

This is **Aastha Tiku**'s very first attempt at story and screenplay. Quite impressive. Dialogues by **Yashaswi** and **Amit** appear improvised, sound natural and sharp. Lovely. Benedict and Naren have come up with some extremely restrained musical scores that elevate the sense of mystery in the jungle. And yes, **Rakesh Haridas** with his available-light shots provide

some real-life experience for the viewers.

Vidya Balan, the protagonist, sails through this forest saga with ease and intensity. An ace performance. **Vijay Raaz, Sharat Saxena, Brijendra Kala** and **Neeraj Kabi** have lent a good sense of authenticity. Didn’t like **Ila Arun** at all. Overdone sequences. Okay, what really drew me close to the film was **Sampa Mandal** as the villager (Jyoti). I guess she was the one playing Phulia (Phoolan Devi) in **Sonchiriya**. Would love to watch her in different roles: rustic or urban. Superlatively talented. All said, the title should have been Baghin (Tigress), not Sherni (Lioness). Whether what we get visually (tigress and her cubs) or metaphorically (Vidya), □□□□□ was apt.