

Skam italia season 2 episode 3

Thanks to the people who read and left comments on my previous summaries, especially the one for episode 2! I appreciated hearing from you V workers about this episode. I don't have much of a preamble, except for the usual: I make comparisons with the original show because I'm interested in remakes like adaptations, I don't have 100% positive things to say if you want to just enjoy the season and don't see criticism, avoid this. Episode 3Clip 1 - Dudes becomes dudesMartino sitting on a couch overlooking the city, for ... Reasons. I don't know why he came here specifically to brood. Is this his special place? Is it a boys' team hangout? It definitely has a nice view. So the other boys came to Emma's, it was just that Martino jumped out. Then they have less reason to be mad at him, to be honest; Yes, it sucks that he blew them off, but they did it at the party. Elia throws a ball at Martino when Martino clearly isn't paying attention. Dickhead! Dudes, he didn't even lie to you? He ignored you. Which isn't great, but if a friend ignored me when we had plans, I'd be worried that something happened to them. Of course the thing that happened to Martino was an attractive boy feeding him garbage noodles, but still. Martino finally lies to the boys in a more active way, spinning them a story of fighting with his mother and getting anxious, which is certainly believable knowing his home situation and is probably drawn from his real experience. In the original, Isaac also uses his mother as an excuse, although he is less obvious than Martino does. Isaac is more than Martino in general, I think, but in that case, he kind of vaguely alluded to the fact that there is stress with his mother, without going into detail, and Jonas was able to pick up on what he meant without Isaac having to say more, and Mahdi was able to pick up that there was something more serious going on, although he did not know the exact situation. This time, Martino's lie is more fleshed-out, and Giovanni is vocally supportive and pats Martino on the shoulder. (I think it's possible that he knows Martino is lying and covering for him, but he plays it pretty sincerely. He knows Martino's family life is difficult, so he probably buys it.) That's why I had to laugh at some comments I read that were like Giovanni being able to read Martino when Jonas couldn't read Isaac. Lmao, no. There are plenty of times when Jonas could pick up on Isaac's mood and situation without it needing to be clarified for him. Anyway, after the situation is ironed out, we get an anecdote about Elia's lack of success with the Argentine girl, telling the story of ... Putting Luca in a suitcase? He's petite. Martino laughs with the boys and everyone seems okay for now. The momentum has been restored. all the hunts of the Argentine will have been for nothing as she is a kicks a ball at Martino as punishment because boys. Then again, I'm sure Martino prefers balls flying on him to having to arrange another party with the girls. Clip 2 - Gay testMartino comes home with some food. The fridge looks pretty empty, so I guess they don't keep on top of groceries. Or it's Martino who takes care of it because his mother comes in and he says he wants to cook for her. So he's nice to her, which is sweet. Mom's too tired and needs to lie down after a long meeting. It seemed as if Isaac's mother had schizophrenia or schizotypal disorder, correct? She had delusions and was actively sending him biblical texts that were confusing. But we haven't seen any of them from Martino's mother-I don't think there's been any suggestion that she's seen things or believe in things that aren't real. So far, it looks like she's dealing with depression, primarily. Apparently she has a job. (I wonder what the reasoning was behind this change, and frankly, I suspect they don't want to deal with portraying things like psychosis on screen, now that the mother's character is visible rather than existing via SMS.) I'm curious how this relationship between Martino and his mother will play out because a) we haven't seen a single inkling that she can't accept his sexuality – I mean it's definitely possible that it will come up, but there are no warning signs like how Isaac's mother sent him hellfire and sulfur texts, so is there supposed to be anxiety there on his part? b) he's clearly not estranged from her the way Isaac was with his mother - so what is the climax of this relationship going to be? It was a big moment when Isaac came out to his mother because it was not just her accepting him for being gay, but sealing a gap in that relationship in general. Of course, I'm sure it will be great when Martino comes out to his mother, but his sexuality doesn't feel like a big problem that sets them apart so far. There are obvious issues in this relationship, but he is also trying to reach out to her and make dinner, they are capable of some connection, although they are also heavily struggling and having dinner. He sends a message to Emma, saying that things were stressful and he will tell her about it, he heard her party was great, etc. He is very friendly and natural. Don't come on in a performative way, don't seem deplorable or like he doesn't want to have that conversation. And Emma texts him back in what seems like a not too much of a confrontational way? She calls him an asshole, but it makes Martino laugh, he's not stressed about it. Also putting asshole in brackets makes it seem softer, not as a insult, but a humorous side. I by not, if keeps too Italian, though, Okay... are they seriously leading into gay test clips like this? Really? Really? I understand that Martino and Isaac are different characters, but why is so much excitement sucked out of the narrative? Isaac lay in bed at 3am staring at the ceiling, miserable, dealing with insomnia, and reading Bible texts from his mother, and he went and did the gay test out of desperation. He really, really had hit a low point and wanted to figure out the issues gnawing at his brain. And it sucked because he had got his hopes up for Himself, but Himself was apparently taken (by a girl) and Isaac thought he was reading too much into it. Martino has certainly not shown the same level of inner struggle as Isaac. I mean, this clip takes place at a reasonable hour, he seems in a reasonable mood, just eating and watching TV, laughing at Emma's message. His mother's condition earlier wasn't terrible. It doesn't seem like a low point. Again, Martino is not Isaac, but then you have to ask why is he getting Isaac's scenes? For each clip that has been adapted from Isaac to Martino, you have to consider: what's the point of this scene in Martino's journey, and why was it recreated instead of deleted or modified to fit his particular characterization or story? It's not unreasonable to guestions, and it's not unreasonable to guestions. whether this scene fits the narrative they've built up, or discuss how changing the details of a scene affects the tone and purpose. I'm not saying this clip has no place in Martino's story, or that you can't tone it down somewhat, but it's just weird how the setup for a clip like this gets dialed down because the setup is a big part of its emotional impact, and presenting it more casually makes it feel much less necessary to the story. Martino looks at Emma's image with a certain predilection and types in how to get turned on by a girl if you're gay. I guess I can rationalize this as Emma is kind and sweet and wouldn't it be so much easier if Martino could just go out with her instead of wanting to be with Niccolò? But yes, the internalized homophobia has not landed. Martino starts with how to get turned on by girls if you're gay, rather than googling to see if he's gay or how not to be gay or something else. (Isaac took gay tests first and then googled a bit about getting turned on by girls. Although I don't think Isaac was actually unsure about being gay or not - like. He knew.) Here's the thing - it's a horrible thing for a gay child to look up regardless, instructions on how to be straight are always But because Martino seems like he's in a pretty stable (even good or amused) mood prior to this, because of the way we lead into the scene, this search seems more like fucking misunderstood, rather someone dealing with a lot of pain. Just as this is not something Martino pushes himself to do because he feels like shit, it's a free web search. An idle search that takes him to a gay test! Not the same as the one Isaac took, though. I think the questions don't lean on stereotypes about what gay men like/do, even if it's less obvious than Isaac's quiz? What kind of cuisine you like, for example - answering as vegetarian/vegan food would probably make you gayer than like Italian or Mexican food because vegetables are for weaklings and meat is for men manly men. There's a moment when Martino seems to debate and says he sees a vagina rather than a snail in an ambiguous image, so I think it's him trying to make his answer seem more straight. The guiz says Martino is exclusively heterosexual. Martino does not seem too impressed with this result. Lmao, the ridiculous cartoon of the Kinsey scale. Clip 3 - Martino does up with EmmaBoys playing foosball. Martino and Giovanni are in a team against Elia and Luca, and they lose, so they have to climb under the table. Martino has to endure some creative punishments in this episode, doesn't he? All in the hands of Elia. I'm not terribly judgmental about character wardrobes or anything like that, especially since I don't know what the hell is trendy for the young people in different countries, but is there a reason Martino wears so many shirts unbuttoned all the way to the neck? Should it be an example of his oppression, or is it just his personal style? I'm serious. Martino sees Emma and walks up to her. She doesn't seem happy to see him, so... I think she was really mad at him? His reaction to her lyrics seemed amused, so I assumed he read them as her is not 100% serious? Okay, don't guess. Isaac was very, verrry smooth when he did this part with Norwegian Emma. It was all part of his heterosexual façade, it was a performance he had done many times, and there was a noticeable contrast between how he had acted with Even in the last episode (shy, vulnerable, gradually becoming more open and unguarded, silly, comfortable). In fact, you could even see a huge difference with him seconds before with Wild, when he was confused and unable to get out of hosting the party, although he definitely doesn't want to and how he sees Emma and takes a moment to consider and re-calibrate, so he's in fuckboy mode when he talks to Emma. It's so artificial that it's alarming and builds anxiety. Martino seems newer to this. He is much more brilliant; he is sweet, but his attitude is frankly not so far removed from what we see of him in other contexts. Sure, he flirts with a girl, but there is so little sign of discomfort, or any of that he has to switch to a mode to flirt with a girl, that it lowers the level of narrative tension and internal conflict. He pretty much went from hanging with the guys-> to seeing Emma-> going over and talking to Emma seemingly effortlessly, not showing that there was any kind of debate in his mind about what he should do, or psyching himself up to talk to her. He's just doing it. Again... I'm kind of like, what's the point of having Martino take a gay test and make the move on Emma when there are so few indicators that this is causing any kind of stress for him? I mean, I think they want us to read the stress of the situation, but the way the scenes are being staged, they're drastically minimizing that effect. Emma gets a text message from the radio group asking for a bluetooth microphone at the party on Friday. Emma wants to go and wants Martino with her. He seems happy, she's no longer angry. So far. Giovanni seems proud of Martino for making a move on her, even though we don't hear him say anything. If they wanted some actual narrative tension in this scene, apart from what was in the original clip, then they could have had the boys spot Emma and ask Martino if he should go apologize or talk to her, put him in an awkward place where he felt he had to and where we could see some heteronormative pressure at work with the boys egging him on , feels that he could not say no. Clip 4 - Boys watching girls in the actress playing the Argentine is apparently like 14 or 15 in real life?????? Is that fucking true? Can someone please confirm that? Because if it's true, it's creepy as hell. That means we have all these 21- to 26-year-old actors cast in a show celebrated for casting actual teens, except for this one girl who gets objectified and perved on by the male characters (played by actors in their 20s) Great! Smut! Although this is not the case ... Blech. I can't fault Skam Italia entirely for the male gaze here because this scene exists in the original and showcases girls' bodies. And well ... male gaze is the point of this scene. But I would point out that the original scene did not show any stationary close-ups of a girl's. Gross. The straight dudes drool over the girls. Luca's filming it because, of course, he's, Boys Will Be Boys. Nothing weird about a guy filming girls without their consent! There is like ... a shot of Martino looks mildly not into it, so uh, maaaaybe they should have emphasized that more? Just a thought. Isaac looked completely out of it, bored out of his mind, very clear in his body language and facial expressions. Plus the boys watching a sports game, those watching and cheering have a different context (rather than just applauding hot girls for being warm, more or less). Martino is even shown cheering, so it's at least something

engaging for him, if not because the girls girls Hot. The point of this scene was to show Isaac's lack of interest in the girls compared to his friends. This scene is filmed in a way more straightforward cheesecake-y way, just as Bessegato didn't get that the original didn't celebrate these supple female bodies and actually had a purpose in establishing the protagonist's mindset. I saw an idea that maybe they should have been watching a men's sports team with similar, sweaty shirtless dudes, and having the camera compare the neutral/bored reactions of the other boys to Martino clearly craves, and I like that twist on stage. Especially if the comment about the dance teacher being too gay (or whatever it would be) comes as a result of trying to make up for checking out the dudes, hoping his friends don't notice, or just checking themselves to let themselves be stared when he's supposed to be trying heterosexuality at this point in the tale. The gymteacher comes up and is like, hmmm, so you just happen to like fit guys. It's a friendly casual interaction and Giovanni is amused. So the gym teacher is gay, as it turns out from dialogue. Which is pretty cool! The boys know him and his girlfriend. So martino is like, you should sue him, he comes up here and touches your stomach. Giovanni's like, WTF. There is a persistent, horrific stereotype of gay men being sexual predators and paedophiles, which is terrible. Completely. It's a great idea to dismantle that belief and educate the audience. But Martino's comment has little to do with his personal journey. We don't think him is struggling to be seen as a creep, or thinking gay men are aggressive, or anything. I think that's when he thinks Filippo might be trying to pick him up? But generally not a concern for his. If there's anything I've forgotten, let me know. Isaac's comment about the dance teacher flowed straight from the gay test (and his internalized homophobia), which was about judging gay stereotypes and non-masculine behavior. Now I think you can say that's why he's reluctant to sleep in the same bed as Giovanni, and has some kind of reaction to hugging him, but the problem is that this reaction is fused with his actual unhappy romantic feelings for Giovanni – just as there are several reasons why Martino can react that way and not want to sleep in the same bed as him, and not all of them have to do with a fear of being seen as aggressive. Sometimes it's about getting distance from a crush that doesn't like you back, or just being afraid to give away his crush/sexuality without it specifically being interpreted as aggressive. But OK, I'll although I think they could have been illustrated better if Martino also didn't want to touch Elia or Luca, two guys he's not shown to be attracted to. In any case, they should have drawn a clear link between gay testing or what Martino found online (like instead of gay tests, they showed him looking at some kind of website or forum or social media where guys talked about feeling uncomfortable with gay men touching them, or thinking gay guys are pervs/molesters, or something relevant to that conversation), since that was the driving force of Isak/Martino saying stupid shit in this scene. It would also have been great to build Martino's insecurities about touching his friends as part of his anxiety about coming out, especially how it manifests itself in a more physically loving culture, and then having his comment about the teacher clearly be some kind of massive projection. There was actually a conversation in Season 1 in the cabin where Elia made a joke about Martino not getting any ideas and touching him, and Martino says he was the last person he wanted to have sex with. It would have been very good to include this season, or a similar moment, to build into Martino's mindset and where he drew that comment. Because it doesn't surprise me that he would have this idea of a gay guy being aggressive, since it's unfortunately an everyday stereotype, but because this is a fictional tale, you have to build those themes and ideas. To heap on some more unpopular statements, I didn't feel like Giovanni appeared as a woke king after this scene, not that he said anything wrong, but that what he said didn't seem to have much to do with his core values and more with personal relationships. It's hard to explain, but it's more dependent on this one gay guy being an OK person instead of challenging a stereotype at its core. Giovanni defends him because he thinks gay men should not be labeled as predators just to touch their students. Like Jonas wasn't everyone, Who, dance instructor? Fred, what's wrong? I know him, he's my cousin's girlfriend. He's cool, he bought me some beers once. He said: Why are you dissing people for being gay? Are you just pointing out people are gay? WTF? It cuts to the heart of Isaac's problem instead of printing a counterexample. Giovanni doesn't have to be a perfectly trained mouthpiece, either, I just wanted to explain the difference in how I saw him and Jonas in those scenes. I mean, I'm sure he'll be kind and supportive when Martino comes out to him. But it is less an indicator of Giovanni having some key non-homophobic principles and more as he is fine with this special guy who is gay. Hopefully that does make to be more positive, on this note, I think it is good that there is at least one gay man who Giovanni is OK with and seems to like and respect, and that Martino can see it. There are obviously differences between how teens see gay peers vs gay teachers because the adult would be safe and would not/should not pursue him, while teenage boys might think that their friends have gay cooties and move on to them, but Giovanni is not in total 100% homophobe based on this meeting. (I don't think Giovanni will have a problem with Martino being gay at all, to be clear, just to speak hypothetically.) Niccolò comes up, of course. The look he gives to Martino is good. Excitement, wahoo! He gives Martino his earbuds back and says he left them on the bus. I'm legit amazed that the boys are so suspicious of this? Martino took the bus to go home from school after he left the boy squad so he could have left earplugs on the bus with my mom - not so unreasonable? All he told them was that he had a fight with his mother, he didn't say where this fight happened (Isaac was wearing a hat when they left school, so it made no sense to say he left it in the cafeteria, and Jonas realized this). I think Martino and Niccolò were just acting weird enough to notice? Giovanni sized up Niccolò so he probably suspects shit is up. Luca gets bonked on the head by volleyball, and the gym teacher is happy. More of this guy, please? I like him. I wouldn't mind if Martino has a heart to heart with him instead of the doctor. Except Martino hasn't been shown to have insomnia, so either he'll develop it midway through the season or the meeting will be about something else. Clip 5 - 80s partyGirl squad does karaoke. Emma sings along. Martino sits there not having a good time, staring blankly at something. Don't sing. He's got a pair of very small sunglasses. I don't think Martino tried at all with the theme except these sunglasses. They look like his regular clothes. Martino and Emma talk briefly about music, and it turns out that Emma likes the same kind of music that Martino's room. So unlike Isaac and Emma, who outside of sexual orientation were also like ... not on the same page as people, Martino and Emma seem as if they could fit together, it was not for the small fact that Martino is gay. I'm not sure there's been a great indication that Italian Emma is as bad (until as a minute or two from now, with her comment about gay people). They could have played this moment a little more, so Martino's reaction is more woeful, like ... Here's this beautiful girl who shares some of my If I was just for girls, it would be so easy. Martino sneaks a glance over Emma Emma Niccolò goes in. Niccolò looks like he dressed up for the theme, at least? No version of Even isn't going to dress up for a costume party. Not on my watch. I don't recognize his burgers shirt, is it a reference to something and I'm just blanking? Lmao Martino just launches at Emma the other Niccolò turns around to look at him, he's ridiculous. I like the part where she is as either you underestimate me or you're shy, and when she asks him if he's shy, that's when he kisses her. Even though he didn't hear a word of it, she said. Niccolò comes over immediately and places himself right between Martino and Emma, so there's at least one way he has out-desperated Even. He's flinging an arm around both of them. Bold! Elio is not a reference to Call Me By Your Name (yes, I guess it might be that too) but to Elio Germano, an actor – I looked up that guy and I can kind of see the resemblance? Not a big one, but in some pictures I get it. Martino, stop being a buzzkill and go sing a shitty song with Niccolò. The point of karaoke is to make one of yourself, no one cares. In response to Martino not wanting to do karaoke, Niccolò asks: Are you afraid to show off your hidden homosexuality? - yeeeees, I'm kind of like, WTF, why did he mention that? If Martino is closeted, why bring it up when they're not alone? Since Niccolò has a strong suspicion that he is gay, isn't he just putting Martino on the spot? But Martino seems rude, I think. Now we have the famous educational moment when Niccolò takes his arms off Martino and Emma when he gets serious. The focus of this scene is more on Niccolò and Emma than how Martino reacts. In Shame, this scene was really fucking important to Isaac because Isaac had ideas about how Gay People should be. That they were all a certain thing. That gay had a definition beyond being attracted to only the same sex - that's why he complains about why the dance teacher should be so gay. The dance guy is not so gay because he shows attraction to men, but because he shows a set of manners associated with gay men. (I mean, that's completely beside the point, but then the gay dance teacher could have turned out to be hammering half the dance chicks since Isaac's statement is based solely on stereotypes.) The gay test he took earlier this week fed into these performances that Isaac had because it was based solely on generalizations. Not only is that how gay men act, but it's how other people see men if you like certain things and act in a certain way. If you behave like that, they assume you're gay, and if you're gay, they assume you're behaving like that. So Isaac hear about how wrong it is to especially from Though, the guy he likes is really damn important. It's Even is is him a lifeline. Gay people are not all one thing and we should not think of them in stereotypes, even when they are nice ones. That's why the focus of this scene has a lot to do with Isaac's rapt attention, because this scene plays a specific counterpart to how we saw Isaac behave this week. But this scene here? It's a nice lesson for audiences to hear, but what does that have to do with Martino's mindset that they've created in this episode? At this point, Martino has not been shown to have any of these beliefs about gay men, as far as I can remember. Most are him wondering why homosexuals always assume that everyone is gay in the scene with Filippo, but it has very little to do with manners. Not only that, they explicitly changed the dialogue in the dancing chickens/volleyball scene to be different - it's not Martino to be like Is the gym teacher having to be so gay? It's him basically accusing the gym teacher of being a pervert for touching a high school boy in a friendly way. So... why didn't they change this dialogue to reflect it? This is a clumsy version of how it might play out, but what if, after Niccolò sits down and has his arm around Martino, and makes his latent homosexuality comment, Emma made a joke like, Haha, you better not get too close, Niccolò! And Niccolò said: What is it about? Emma could say something like, you know, because he's going to try to make a move on you, and Niccolò replied: Errr, just because a gay guy gets close to another guy doesn't make it inappropriate. Then it would actually bind to an earlier scene. But obviously it's not the only way it could have played out. My point is, why don't they follow through this scene with something consistent with Martino's story so far? Then again, this whole thread during the episode feels inconsistent. It's easy to follow the story logic with Isaac: taking a gay test revolves around generalizations about gay men's personalities-> trying to distance themselves from these generalizations about gay men's personalities-> hearing that it's wrong to make generalizations about gay personalities. Martino this week: taking a gay test with some generalizations (I think they were present but not as blatant as in the test Isaac took?) -> makes a comment about the gym teacher basically calling him a molester-> hearing that it's wrong to make generalizations about gay personalities. I think he doesn't learn to generalize gay men like molesters? But really, very differently, it's not very coherent, and Martino wasn't shown to be very influenced by Niccolò's dialogue. Then again ... Why is this? Also, there is some kind of ... weird about Niccolò just did the same thing, kind of? He joked that Martino wouldn't. Would. karaoke because he was afraid to show his latent homosexuality, generalization is that karaoke is a thing that gay guys do. And I get that it's a tongue-in-cheek comment, ha ha Martino, get over yourself (and a loaded statement about his own suspicions about Martino), buuut there's a reason why, on the surface, Niccolò can make a joke about what gay people like or do or are (ha ha, liking karaoke is a sign of homosexuality!), but then Emma can make another statement generalizing about gay people And he's like... Excuse me? Yes, of course, there's a difference between them in that Emma is a straight girl (from what we know) and Niccolò is a guv who likes guys (although I'm going to assume he's pan as even for now) and I'm not defending what she said, but it's a sloppy juxtaposition to have in the same scene. One is more neutral and one's positive, but they are both generalizations. One thing you could get from this scene is that Niccolò has feelings about defending gay people and can't equal himself... which should be blindingly obvious at this point. So Niccolò is like, I know rather boring gays, which is a bit funny in the sense that he teases Martino, but also still put Martino on the spot. Martino is not nearly as susceptible to this comment as the latent homosexuality one. Niccolò went too far. Emma thinks this topic is boring and has Martino go dancing with her. At least they show Niccolò sitting alone looking discouraged when standing up, which is a dead giveaway, but a nice little moment. People dance. This red light is very striking and all, but the downside is that it's hard to see Martino's face (or most faces in the crowd). It could have worked if they wanted to inject some ambiguity into the scene, like did Niccolò look over to Martino while kissing his girlfriend, or was it accidental? Does Martino imagine it? But it's pretty clear that they want it to be straightforward, so I wish we could have seen their feelings more clearly. (I feel like lighting on this show is often a disservice to the actors, but it's something to talk about at another time.) I like the song, though (Self Control of the Raf) and the lyrics seem pretty fitting, about losing self-control to someone. Martino kisses Emma but can't control herself from looking over to Niccolò. There is also the comparison between day and night, perhaps related to how Martino lives for night aka these moments, he gets to be in Niccolò's presence. Also it's an 80s song, so it's fitting to the theme of the party, of course. Eva seems to notice Martino making out with Emma and isn't quite cool with it, like I think she goes WTF in her head? Do I know his secret? Does not calculate??? Federica is also sorry because Martino another girl. Aw, poor girl. She got so close, or she thought! Don't worry, hopefully Kasper will come. Fat sees Silvia's phone ringing. It's Silvia's mother, so they pause the music while Silvia talks to her mother. Silvia tells her mother that she is with Fede and Eva, which I thought was interesting when it excluded Sana. So maybe her parents have a problem with Sana (or rather, Silvia has a Muslim friend)? Eva looks at Sana after that, but it might just be holy shit, what's going on? rather than why didn't she mention you? I'm too lazy to check, but is that a girl with the glasses standing behind Eva and Sana one of the theater kids from the first season? I like to see Eva go into action mode and tell people what to do! What a boss. There's the blue-haired girl from the earlier clips again, dressed as Madonna. WHOOOO IS YOU, WHO, WHO, WHO, WHO (no really, there's this girl) The sudden cleanup is a means of getting Martino and Niccolò alone together, taking out the trash. Is Niccolò dressed as Marty McFly? Has he read my post? (Don't take it too seriously, Imao) Or is it another character/celebrity? Or just generic 80s style? Their chemistry in this scene is the strongest it's been yet. The ones just standing there before the conversation starts is a really good moment. (Surprise that has a smidge of excitement and some variety in their interaction does a lot for their dynamic!) Niccolò is nicknamed Colino based on something from middle school, so he and Maddalena go back a while. They got together when they were 16, and they are reportedly like siblings. So it looks like they could have a foundation of friendship, and could go back to being friends when they break up, perhaps? Or maybe they're just growing too different for it, though. Niccolò is like just so you know we're like siblings. WE HAVEN'T HAD SEX IN TWO MONTHS. I mean, I get what he's trying to say, but I haven't had sex with my sister in two months is not a thing I would expect to hear from people with normal sibling relationships. Also, two months would be the beginning of school, right? When he saw Martino? The motive behind Niccolò's story of Maddalena's health is very different from Even's. Isaac was very closed and didn't really have it when even started talking to him about dating Sonja for years and not being able to break up with her. He shut him out. That's why even started turning the story about her aluminum legs, to get a reaction out of Isaac and to find an opening. Martino, on the other hand, is very receptive to Niccolò from the beginning of this conversation, smiling and laughing, making eye contact. Even when Niccolò mentions Maddalena, it's not like Martino completely shuts down; he seems amused or maybe when Niccolò says they haven't had sex. So Niccolò make up this shit about his girlfriend coming across as a lot more random. Like he's doing it just to fuck Martino to laugh. And he keeps going even when Martino tells him he's full of shit (this scene continues for about two minutes, twice as long as Even's story). It is not in itself wrong to change the tone of the stage, but it makes it much less fraught because there are not that many efforts with this conversation. They are already more or less on the same page, or at least Martino is willing to be. Even had so much more vulnerability when talking about this, as ... we actually saw that he felt hurt or upset talking about how he could not dump Sonia. Niccolò felt so much more relaxed and actually, which is fine, but it all feels at odds with his likely situation because so far we've seen he really wants Martino and puts himself out there. He's not discreet. Here he is like, well, can't dump her! I think there are some of the same subtext here as in OG, with Sonja's fake legs standing in for Even's bipolar disorder; Maddalena's hairy condition is meant to be Niccolò's mental illness. Now she keeps it under control, she gets experimental treatment, etc. All things that could apply to Niccolò, maybe. It would be something if Maddalena was in medical school because Niccolò's mental illness made her want to help others, or research bipolar disorder, or something like that. It's different from Sonja apparently bored with her life (and perhaps channeling her energy to take care of Herself), but a nice adaptation. Although Niccolò wasn't her motivating factor for going to medical school, it's a potentially interesting way to show that she feels the need to fix people. Skam Italia keeps doing this thing where they pull back the damn camera in a scene, away from the characters far enough or from an angle so we can't really see their faces (and in a way that doesn't reveal anything convincing about their body language). They're doing it here, and it's not the most extreme example, but after watching it happen in later episodes. I'm more aware of it, and a lot of times it undermines the feelings of a scene - again, a disservice to the actors. There are times when it really took me out to be discussed when they show up. I guess they do it just to add some contrast to the closeups of characters? And I'm way too more contrast, but that's not really what I wanted, Lmao. The pinky touching moment is amazing! It's one thing that's theirs rather than Evak's (I think it might be subbing in for the big hole in the sock moment from the script, but it's still different). They smile and look at each other as they lean again, much in to Isaac and Even (when Isaac could not even see Even), but it is consistent with the general mood of their relationship so far. (Although it is kinda ehhhh that they just ... dropped all the tension from inside the party, Niccolò comments on the couch, staring at each other across the room while kissing girls, and then went back to the comfortable friendly mood almost immediately, as if none of it meant too much in the narrative.) oh my God, they're interrupted by the whole party running out and likes, it's great. Instead of Noora, it's fucking eeeeverybody. Although they smile at each other as they run out and it's cute and all but where is the excitement. Even from the perspective of them being kinder and more smiley at each other, 1) they almost got caught by other people, and not just anyone but people they know, including their girlfriends (well, Niccolo's girlfriend and Martino's date) and people who could talk or gossip about them, so why this didn't cause any kind of alarm 2) this has changed things. They almost kissed. Show that it was some kind of big deal, as even something as small as Martino lingering for a moment to process what just happened, to take a deep breath? Smiling to yourself if you want to keep it easier? What is the actual difference in tone or Martino reaction in this scene to something like the boy squad running from the police in episode 1? Except that he actually seemed worried about being caught by the police. General Comments/Social MediaEmma and Martino have far more of a report in their texts than Isaac and Emma did. She actually seems to have a sense of humor. She says she has found his look-a-like, and Martino is like, Don't say Ron Weasley, and ahaha that one I don't see at all. At least not if we're talking about Rupert Grint/film Ron. I could maaaaaybe see the movie Fred and George, though. Maybe. If I squint. Martino was also open about going to Silvia's party, which makes sense, but also he didn't have to hide it like Isaac did. Isaac was just all over the place in his season. Martino also names the Luca/Silvia ship Lulvia. I don't know if it will actually happen. If it does, I think it will be like a random Chris/Kasper-esque makeout at the end of the season. Tbh my favorite thing from this episode could have been Silvia searching for her cat before the sweet, sweet Margot content. I've seen all the episodes aired so far and there are some elements that I think have been handled decently, others not so much. Later episodes have some parts that I like better. Unfortunately, this episode is showcased by the weaknesses of this season, which would be, in a nutshell: lack of tension, weak depiction of internal conflicts, lack of focus for Martino's POV and character trajectory. I know I sound strange and too Summary. Part of it is that I'm a little annoyed because I feel like this episode showed that to some extent, Bessegato does not like ... Either get what Isaac's fight was about or he doesn't have a clear vision for Martino's fight. or he does, but storvtelling isn't tight enough to make every scene count. Isaac and Martino don't have to have exactly the same internal conflicts, but there has to be some consistency, and so far Martino's arc is a strange mix of things that don't always fit what we see of him, but are there because it happened to Isaac. Either just make a straight-up close recreation of Isaac's struggle, or find out exactly what Martino's various conflict is, and write a more focused story guided by it. The second part is that there are ~problematic things in this show that get on my nerves and constantly hear that people need to suck it up because it's realistic is to wear down my patience. I don't expect the characters to be perfect. The original Skam characters aren't perfect. The remake characters aren't perfect. The remake characters aren't perfect. and sexism that seems to be unintentional and go unnoticed. And when racism and sexism repeatedly go unnoticed, it starts to feel as if the show is normalizing it. Especially about the boy squad behavior, including videotaping Argentina and later catfishing, because there has been a lot of debate recently about that... I would love for there to be a point to all this? It would be great if their creepy-ass behavior was called out later in the season, and if this turned out to have been a point of toxic masculinity and shitty straight boy behavior. If it was all building up to something amazing, I'd give Skamit the respect it's due to. But right now? I don't understand why I should give the show the benefit of the doubt. It's already shown its about racism, and there have been scenes that have jumped out at me in terms of male gaze, some of the more overt feminism in S1 was watered down from what I remember, etc. So I can't actually assume that the boy squad will definitely be called out in the end. Frankly, if you had asked me to guess what some of the potential weaknesses this season might be, I wouldn't have guessed a lack of excitement. I think part of the goal was to show a gay teenager in Italy falling in love with a boy and not having it be the end of the world. And it's definitely a noble goal, and something many Italian teenagers can benefit from. But I have to say - I never thought Isaac's season was like, emotional torture porn, just because it had conflict? It balanced fluffy romantic content with angsty sad things and was better for it. The fluff was more valuable because we saw what a it was compared to anxiety, and anxiety was more valuable because we saw exactly how much we were losing when the fluff was gone. Isaac's serious internal struggle made every little bit of character growth that much more powerful. I'm not saying the story should be an emotional roller coaster from clip to clip, but yes, stakes matter, especially when you're doling a story in 3-5 minute intervals every day or two. I think they have some heightened tension in this episode, some of it with the boy squad, and some of that with Martino's mother isn't great, but there's also the issue of internal conflicts that are supposed to be fueling many of these scenes, and that's where it falls flat. Shame is a character-focused show - I mean, every season is about living in a different character's head - so, frankly, they should milk f u k out of his inner struggles. I would also say that I absolutely do not have this problem with S1 of Skam Italia. I thought Eva's story set up her clear struggles from the beginning and kept some tension going throughout the season. She and Martino have different problems, for sure, but it's not a case of Skam Italia being softer overall. I've heard counterarguments in tags about the lack of tension, suggesting that there are tensions inherent in the story because of it being about a gay teen in Italy, but respectfully, I can't agree with that? So this story makes even less sense, just as if the level of tension caused by homophobia in Italy is so great that it's embedded that deep, how can you explain Martino's unfazed or casual reactions to events, such as almost being caught kissing Niccolò (several times if you include later episodes)? It feels contradictory. But in general, it is a contrived fictional tale; part of the responsibility falls on the show itself to establish its efforts. Anyway, if there is cultural context I missed, feel free to let me know! If you got this far, thanks for reading! Reading!

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