

Netflix Current State Narrative

It is a Friday night in the Miller family household. After dinner, the Millers like to watch a movie all together. The entire family loves watching movies and are subscribed to various streaming services, but use Netflix the most. Despite their love of movies, movie nights in the Miller family are the most stressful days of the week.

Bella is 22 years old and lives at home with her two parents, Mary and Bob, and younger sister, Jane. At around 9:00pm everyone reconvenes downstairs and sits on the couch to find a movie to watch. Dad opens Netflix on the TV and everyone watches as he scrolls through all the different films. There are endless options to choose from.

While scrolling, Dad asks, “What movie do you guys want to watch tonight?”. Everyone responds with “I have no idea” or “You choose”. Dad keeps scrolling. Everyone keeps waiting. 20 minutes of browsing time pass.

Dad watches the trailer of one movie called *Human Nature*. “What about this one? It’s about science and curing diseases with CRISPR”, he suggests excitedly.

“Dad, are you serious? I don’t want anything boring! I am in a bad mood and want something that will make me laugh”, says Jane.

“Ok, well I give up. I have looked through everything”, Dad responds.

Bella steals the remote and starts scrolling through the movies herself. Jane pulls out her phone and searches “best movies to lift you up” on Google.

Another 20 minutes pass. Mom has fallen asleep and Dad is starting to doze off.

This one is too boring. This one is sad. That one doesn’t have good reviews. This one doesn’t have the right vibe.

“Bella, just make a decision already!”, Jane screams.

“Nobody is helping me. I don’t know what we are in the mood for”, Bella argues.

There are so many different movies and categories in Netflix based on rankings, but none of the generic movie genres match with the mood of the night.

10 more minutes pass. “I give up.” Bella says. It is now 10:30 and Mom and Dad have passed out.

“Well if we start a movie now, it’s going to be 2 hours and 15 minutes. I’m too tired.”, Jane says.

“Well, I guess we should just go to bed”, Dad says, half asleep.

Everyone gets up, irritated and sad, after spending over an hour trying to make a decision on something to watch. Everyone returns to their own rooms and goes to sleep. This is the second week this has happened. Another failed movie night. Even though they love watching movies, this process is dreadful for the Millers.

Bella returns to her room feeling extremely frustrated. She always feels responsible for choosing the movie for the entire family because if she doesn’t, she knows that they will just end up not watching a movie. The indecisiveness is upsetting. The whole process is time consuming and gives quite the headache!

She hopes that one day it will be easier to find movies on Netflix that match the mood her and her family are in. She wished that picking a movie to watch as a family would be a fun process. She can’t wait for the day that a movie night experience will be something the whole family looks forward to, rather than dreads.