

REVIEW

'Lupin' season 3 sees the gentleman thief return to Paris

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Netflix has released the third season of international smash hit "Lupin," the French-language series that took the world by storm. Assane Diop, played with exemplary style and swagger by Omar Sy, is back in a taut and tantalizing seven episodes that follow the so-called gentleman burglar-turned-detective who is modeled on a character created in 1905 by French novelist and short-story writer Maurice Leblanc.

Be aware, there are recap spoilers ahead for season one for readers who have not yet enjoyed

an episode of "Lupin."

Just a little recap: Diop's father was accused by his employer Hubert Pellegrini of stealing a priceless necklace. With the father meeting an untimely death, Diop is orphaned (his mother is estranged) and grows up reading the exploits of Lupin and copies his magical methods of robbing the rich. With Pellegrini finally arrested and Diop's father's name cleared, Assane rises. He is married but separated from his wife Claire (Ludivine Sagnier) and loves his son Raoul (Etan Simon) dearly.

In season three, he is after a black pearl that is worth a fortune.



Season three of 'Lupin' is now streaming on Netflix. Supplied

What is slightly different about this season from the earlier two is the emotional quotient. His search for his long lost mother and desire to make amends with Claire and Raoul add a beautifully poignant note. There are tears that tug at your heart, but there is also an element of violence in these episodes that set them apart from the earlier seasons. Diop has the ability to outwit all those who cross his path and in an ethereal-looking Paris, his sleight of hand and superb tactics see him through the most difficult of situations in a pulse-pounding manner. The twists and turns of

his heists may not be logical, and his disguises may look rather silly, but who cares! Sy is such a delight to watch as Diop that even the fictional French public are vocal about their admiration for him — when he is arrested, riots break out in Paris.

The tightly knit and fast-paced screenplay keeps the momentum alive. The cool demeanor of the characters, the unpredictability that leaves us in sheer awe and the slick back-and-forth editing make "Lupin" a captivating watch. But don't look for logic, for then the fun would vanish as fast as our hero does.