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The Lesson — film review: ‘Wry and insightful’

Nigel Andrews

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Margita Gosheva in 'The Lesson'

The style is wonderfully plain and simple in *The Lesson* from Bulgaria, directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov. The camera watches, detached yet empathic, as small-town schoolteacher Nadezhda (Margita Gosheva) finds her moral authority under attack — if not her very life and livelihood — when a feckless husband’s debts become unpayable.

House repossession? Loan shark menaces? (This shark keeps a chainsaw on his desk to discourage renegotiations.) Bankruptcy? When a woman realises a black body stocking donned to gratify an enemy’s sexual whims can be doffed, instead, and used for a bank-robbing mask, life has spun out of control. *The Lesson* has the potency of a Dardenne brothers drama. It’s a war movie of the everyday, wry, harsh, insightful.



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