

SCREAM DREAM

TRACY TERRORIZES ON 'SCARE TACTICS'



**LINDA
STASI**

TV Critic

Rating: ★★☆☆

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IN order to like "**Scare Tactics**," you have to be half a moron with a sophomoric sense of humor.

I mean, seriously, what's so funny about scaring people so badly that they wet their pants?

I'm glad you asked me that. The answer is, of course, everything - but not unless you are half a moron with a sophomoric sense of humor, which tragically I am and I have.

In case you've never seen it, "Scare Tactics" is "**Candid Camera**" with a mean streak. A very mean streak. This season, which is Season 3 I'm happy to report, hosted by Tracy Morgan ("**30 Rock**"), who seems like the nicest guy in the world - and that's what makes the mean tricks all the funnier.

Season 1, which I also enjoyed tremendously, was hosted by **Shannen Doherty**, who is scary enough without having to punk people into believing their campsite is being overrun by Yeti.

Season 2, which I missed altogether, was hosted by Stephen Baldwin, but there was no way I was going to skip anything with the words "Scare" and "Tracy Morgan" in the title.



F. Scott Schafer

Tracy Morgan takes over Season 3 of the Sci Fi show that scares unassuming victims.

And I wasn't disappointed. In fact, I was in mean-lady heaven (or is that hell?) watching it.

Anyway, if you don't know the premise, here's a quick précis: People who are always punked by their friends are finally able to get revenge on their tormentors with the help of the show.

The producers set up insane scenarios that generally cause people to either scream until their lungs are nearly bursting or wet their pants. I'm laughing just thinking about it.

On tonight's premiere, there are, as usual, several setups. One involves a young woman who takes a temp job at a doctor's office.

On her first day, a man comes rushing in because his wife is having a baby. Satan's baby! I know it sounds nuts, but when the tiny red man comes flying out from under the covering with horns, it's scary as hell.

Then the "real" giant daddy Devil shows up and tells them they all must praise the red midget baby a la "Rosemary's Baby." If the devil is really this funny, I'm all set to become a worshipper!

Between tonight and the next installment, you'll see a man attacked by an alien; a farm worker get eaten by a wood chipper run by a country gangster in front of a terrified newbie; and a guy stuck in a "secret government" project who's threatened by a government agent with drilling his head.

There are many, many more. But like I said, if you aren't half a moron, you won't have gotten this far, and if you are, I don't want to spoil it for you.

"Scare Tactics"

Tomorrow at 10 p.m. on Sci Fi
