

Breathless

Pitch: Possibly the best film of 2009...

Why Buy? Sang-hoon (Ik-joon Yang) is a brutal and brutally foul-mouthed debt collector who's turned the abuse he suffered as a child into fuel for his profession. Yeon-hue (Kkobbi Kim) is a teenage girl from an abusive household of her own, and she's the only person unwilling to take crap from Sang-hoon. The two become odd friends in a tale that explores the cycle of violence with sadness, pain, humor and heart. Yang also wrote and directed this very personal film, his debut, and it's a suspenseful and heart-wrenching affair that constantly surprises with vitality.



A Separation

Pitch: Possibly the best film of 2011...

Why Buy? A couple at odds over their family's future find themselves caught up in a scandal that brings the classes and the sexes of modern day Iran sharply into focus. Nader (Peyman Moadi) and Simin (Leila Hatami) are separating due to differing opinions on raising their daughter, but when the woman hired to look after Nader's dad accuses him of improper behavior the family finds themselves before the court in a he said/she said situation. Writer/director Asghar Farhadi follows up the equally brilliant *About Elly* with this Academy Award winning drama that accomplishes two things beautifully. It's a suspenseful drama, and it's an eye-opening look in to a country that most of us have very limited (and very negative) exposure to. Also available on Blu-ray.

DVDs I'D RENT