

# Something different for romantic comedy fans

*Alone in Love* looks at divorced couple's reunion | BY KATE MEE HEE SANDS

*Alone in Love*  
(*Yon-eh Shi-dae*)  
SBS drama, 2006  
16 episodes

Romantic comedies hold a special place in the hearts of aficionados of Korean drama. Perhaps it is the comfortably predictable sequence of events: Boy meets girl, boy and girl hate each other with an intense passion, a random series of events forces said boy and girl to create some sort of relationship "contract" which inevitably results in them falling in love and staying together despite the odds stacked against them. Insert a few moments of slapstick comedy and tons of miscommunication, and you've got the quintessential recipe for a great comic Korean drama.

Having said that, *Alone in Love* does not follow any of these typical romantic drama conventions — that, in itself, makes it a truly unique and intriguing show. There is no "boy meets girl" because boy and girl have met, long ago. In fact, boy and girl have already fallen in love and gotten married, but early in their marriage, they experience a tragedy beyond their control. Not knowing how to console or support one another after this traumatic event, they divorce. The interesting part is that neither boy nor girl has fallen out of the love with the other person. That's where the real story begins.

Ye-jin Son (who starred in the film *The Classic*) plays Eun-ho Yu, the sensitive and pragmatic ex-competitive swimmer turned personal trainer. Dong-jin Lee (played by Woo-sung Karm, who made a memorable impression in the acclaimed film, *The King and the Clown*) is a stubborn and somewhat egotistical bookstore owner with a soft spot for those he cares about. They are two ordinary people who are trying their best to navigate through the awkward crossroads in their lives post-divorce — not together, but not completely apart. As Dong-jin sardonically explains, "Divorced couples actually have a lot of reasons to meet." The interesting aspect of their meetings is the underlying affection and care they still have for one another despite their overt annoyance and frustration towards each other.

Eun-ho believes that she still might



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([www.yaentertainment.com](http://www.yaentertainment.com))

still be in love with Dong-jin, but she is deathly afraid of telling him the truth about her feelings and the possibility of rejection. The larger issue overshadowing her life is the stillbirth of her infant son and the stinging abandonment she felt when Dong-jin left her alone in the hospital room the night of her son's death, without explanation.

Dong-jin, on the other hand, is too indecisive and arrogant to clearly identify what he feels for Eun-ho. Vacillating between longing and outright exasperation, Dong-jin even goes as far as playing "matchmaker" for Eun-ho, attempting to set her up with the craziest guy possible — which ultimately ends up backfiring when this "crazy guy" admits that he has been in love with Eun-ho for four years and is suspected to be Eun-ho's stalker!

Eun-ho wants to reciprocate the "generosity" that Dong-jin has shown her through his matchmaking skills and tries to match him up with her sweet and ever-so-ditzy-headed childhood friend, Mi-yeon. Things get a bit more complicated

great supporting cast. Eun-ho is alternately deterred and encouraged in her love life by her goofy, free-loading younger sister, Ji-ho (played by Ha-na Lee). Her random public outbursts and her voracious appetite are aptly displayed in an impromptu Tarzan and Jane imitation in line at a salad bar. Despite her unpredictability and occasional flakiness, Ji-ho serves as Eun-ho's closest confidante and ally.

Dong-jin's closest friend is quirky ob-gyn doctor Joon-pyo Gong who has the inconvenient fear of delivering babies. Perpetually nervous and endearingly quirky, he feels responsible for the death of Dong-

jin and Eun-ho attempt to make sense of the awkward romantic reality they have found themselves in. Though their lingering love for one another seems obvious to everyone but themselves, they struggle convincingly with realizing and understanding the possibility of love after divorce.

*Alone in Love* is the most well-written, well-directed, and well-acted Korean drama I have viewed thus far. The storyline is full of subtle innuendos, random comedic moments, and well-developed subplots. The character development is especially strong — one becomes deeply engrossed with every char-

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*Alone in Love* is now available with english subtitles from [www.yaentertainment.com](http://www.yaentertainment.com)

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