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Don't look for depth in 'Snatched,' but find some laughs

Schumer's follow-up to 'Trainwreck' lacks same texture, still brings feel-good moments

There is no romance in "Snatched," starring Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn as would-be adventurers Emily and Linda Middleton. But there is a love story between mother and daughter.

It's a goofy, family-affirming — or at least mom-affirming — road movie; and honestly, what wackier mother-daughter combination can you think of than Goldie Hawn and Amy Schumer?

Self-centered Emily has planned a vacation to Ecuador with her hip musician boyfriend Michael (Randall Park). He breaks up with her because he's in a band that is starting to take off.

With this new level of visibility, Michael expects to be on the receiving end of the kind of access to women that Donald Trump described to Billy Bush — and

there's no room for Emily on that kind of bus.

Besides, she has no goals. Emily just got fired from her sales clerk job at a department store, and it's clear to him and everyone else except Emily that she's going nowhere.

The tickets to Ecuador are non-refundable and none of her friends are willing to go. So she

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turns to her adorable, indulgent, overprotective mom Linda, who still lives in Emily's childhood home with Emily's agoraphobic, Klingon-speaking brother Jeff (Ike Barinholtz) and two cats.



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While rummaging through a closet in the big house, Emily discovers a photo album of Linda in her youth (letting us revisit flashbacks to the Goldie Hawn we know and already love). Emily pressures Linda to go on the South American trip with the one-two punch argument "you don't do anything fun anymore" and "these tickets are non-refundable."

At the hotel bar, Emily meets a handsome con artist who lures Emily and Linda away on a "day trip" with promises to show them the countryside, and right into a trap. Kidnappers crash into their

Jeep, steal the women away and hold them captive.

There's only one person the kidnapers can call for the ransom — the housebound Trekkie Jeff.

All of the characters are cartoonish, and none of them are particularly developed. It's not that kind of movie.

This is especially so for the Ecuadorian kidnapers. Emily is too squeamish to squish a scorpion, yet she fatally dispatches two of the bad guys with an oops-I-spilled-my-drink level of casualness.

Wanda Sykes and Joan Cusack have minor roles as Ruth and Barb, friends on vacation at the Middleton's resort. These two are wound pretty tight. Barb has been trained in special ops, and her overcommitted, militaristic vigilance is a running gag.

Christopher Meloni ("Oz," "Law & Order: SVU") appears as a certain archetype that is the butt of jokes around watercoolers worldwide yet has rarely been ridiculed through the female gaze — the inexperienced guy who takes charge with authority and confidence although he has no idea what he's doing, who isn't even embarrassed when he's exposed.

Obvious, uncomplicated and light, "Snatched" doesn't have the texture of Schumer's "Trainwreck" or the friends-as-family-of-choice consolations of "Bridesmaids."

It uplifts with a different kind of reassurance: that Mom will make everything right.