Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 5
Empire of Dirt (2013)



INTRO JINGLE

INTRO SHOW

RAY
Hi everybody! Welcome to Cats on Film Pod. I'm your host, Ray Allyn, here with my co-host, Skipper.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Thanks for joining us every Tuesday as we review cats in film – the felineness of the cats, the humaneness of the humans, and what that tells us about the people on screen and behind the scenes. There will be spoilers.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Today, we're discussing the Canadian movie *Empire of Dirt,* which came out in 2013. I didn't even know this was a cat movie until halfway through! Remember, I had to pause it to find you so you could watch it, too.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY

You committed to doing this show, Skipper. Sometimes that means leaving your corner window for a surprise cat movie.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I know you like watching TV as much as I do, especially when there's a big tasty fish!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Let's recap!
A shorthair Siamese cat lives with a tackle shop owner in Ontario named Minnie.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
No, they don't mention the kitty's name, unfortunately. We first see her when Minnie's estranged daughter, Lena, shows up with her teenage daughter, Peeka. Lena is gently affectionate with the kitty, even kissing her soft little head.

CLIP FROM EMPIRE OF DIRT
MINNIE
Eighteen, now.
LENA
I didn't think— I didn't think she'd still be here.

RAY
We don't see much personality from the cat. She's a marker for how long Lena has been away in the big city and a metaphor for their mother-daughter relationship.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Like, Lena tries to be affectionate, but Minnie is all brusque.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY

She looks stand-off-ish to me sitting on that cabinet right before Minnie and Lena fight about cow poo. Like she's above it all or something.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
And she's got her spot in the window. By the way, why's that corner your favorite spot?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Mmm, that sounds nice. Wish I could fit back there.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Laughs Don't worry, the corner's all yours!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Laughs Anyways, the pretty Siamese has got her spot in the window and then we see Lena standing at the window, deep in thought. This is a good example of a contemplative cat.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
When a human is alone with their thoughts, except for a quiet cat nearby. I think they're trying to show the human as being cat-like.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
In that, like, the lady is keeping to herself while being quiet and still.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
True. Lena and Peeka talk more about wolves, since that's what their last name, Mahikan, means.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I don't think they say. Minnie mentioned Cree and Ojibwe ancestry, and Lena generally refers to herself as "Indian", but I'm not sure exactly which language "Mahikan" is from. Anyways, Lena comes face-to-face with a wolf while she's drunkenly grieving.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Well, they set it up a bit with a sign in Warren's bar warning people about wolf sightings, so there's every chance it was a real wolf.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, back to the cat. Well, actually, that's all of the cat's scenes.
What's your rating of *Empire of Dirt?*

SKIPPER
3 meows

RAY
Three out of four paws for *Empire of Dirt's* pretty kitty who's treated well, but doesn't get fleshed out much.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, not even a name!

SKIPPER
meows

END STING

RAY
Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod.* Know someone who loves mother-daughter dynamics? Please share this episode with them!

OUTRO JINGLE

END CREDITS

RAY
This episode was voiced and produced by Ray Allyn, with music by The DōsMan, and additional sounds from FreeSound.org.
Support Skipper and Ray at Pod.Fan/catsonfilmpod for access to exclusive content.
Tune in next Tuesday for a new episode and remember to subscribe so you don't miss it.
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Cats on Film Pod!

SKIPPER
meows