

# QLH-S3E7M: Eye of the Cat

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

cats, wiley, film, aunt, cat, movie, scheme, luke, feel, watching, subtext, returns, good, 60s, menacing, nephew, woman, hairdresser, character, relationship

## SPEAKERS

Jessi Chartier, Jen Myers

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**J** Jessi Chartier 00:04

Welcome to Quiet Little Horrors. Here we talk about the films that creep under your skin and take up residence in the dark.

**J** Jen Myers 00:17

Let's talk about Eye of the Cat. We talk about movies. So we're going to talk about parts of movies that may be spoilers. If that doesn't bother you, you can keep on listening. Or you can hit the pause button and go watch the films that we're talking about before you continue here. Consider yourself warned. A long lost nephew returns to his wealthy aunt who is struggling with one disease and is being cared for by his younger brother, he and the hairdresser scheme to gain the aunts inheritance by smothering the aunt in the night. But with a fear of cats. And there are a lot of cats, the nephew has to come up with schemes of his own. Cats, cats, cats, cats.

**J** Jessi Chartier 01:03

There are a lot of cats in this film,

**J** Jen Myers 01:05

Which I like. I'm a fan of cats, I'll just say at the beginning. And part of the reason I'm a fan of cats is because they are kind of inherently evil. And I appreciate that.

**J** Jessi Chartier 01:17

Either though, or just inherently selfish, like I feel like,

J Jen Myers 01:21

Oh, that's a very good philosophical question. I feel like we're going off on a whole tangent there. No, I mean, that's a good point. I mean, not to get too deep into this. But like I do genuinely really love cats, I always have I'm literally recording this with a cat on my lap right now. I have a I have a cat who I have a calico. So she she's a very cat-like cat. You're right though, there's something that like, I kind of admire her self interestedness and her very strong boundaries. And it is interesting how we have kind of coded that as, like evil or selfish or selfishness is evil, when they're also just I don't know, in a way, just kind of very independent and very clear about what they want and what they want to do. So yeah.

J Jessi Chartier 02:06

Yeah, so let's talk about how that applies to the movie. So I stumbled upon this film, just because it was a Shudder recommendation. And I was like, Alright, I like the older films. Let's go back and dive into this. And our theme for the month was I don't know if we really have a theme, but the main movie we have for this month is The Innocents. And that has to do with I guess it has to do with more psychological thriller ghosts. And it's really uncomfortable relationships between authority figures, women throw for authority figures like answer governesses and the children in which they are tasked of raising. And Eye of the Cat is almost like what happens when that relationship when their children is not healthy? What happens to that when they're adults? It's almost like let's come back and see the the results of a bad relationship. And I really, I enjoyed it. I really did like this film. I loved the subtext, the subtext is just so I don't know, it's just creepy and all the right ways. It's uncomfortable. Because the spoiler alerts as we give it the beginning, we do have very clear indication that this aunt who raised these boys on her own after both their parents died, had an incestuous relationship with the older brother, Wiley, probably when he was too young to really, there was clear sexual abuse, let's just call it that. Call it what it is. And now but the movie starts with him returning to her as a grown adult. And the it's kind of like the manipulation has been put on the other foot now. So he returns with the intent of basically gain this inheritance because he had left when he was old enough he had left he's like I'm out. But now of course, he's back to try and gain the inheritance from his aunt that he despises. And it just kind of goes to hell, like it's just, it's great.

J Jen Myers 04:14

Well, and it's interesting, too, that he is he's more or less lured back by another woman, which is

J Jessi Chartier 04:22

because also very Feline, yes. Yeah.

J Jen Myers 04:24

The aunt's hairdresser who has noticed that she the aunt has this lung disease and and basically was like, Oh, it would be really easy to knock her off. I'm sure I should do that. And so she basically pulls Wiley back in. And so it's kind of interesting that while he was getting pulled back into this, yeah, by a younger sexy woman. Yeah, it's that there's a lot. There's a lot going on in this movie. And I'm with you. Like there's there's some really compelling subtext. I almost wished that there weren't quite so many things going on in the film so that you could pay more attention and spend more time with subtext. Because there's also a really convoluted plot going on on the top of it. And part of me almost just wanted that to be like, like, simplify that and let the subtext bubble up more, because it definitely bubbles up in times, like it's definitely there. But I would have liked if we're just given a little bit more space, because they pile on, it's almost like they don't want you to notice it's there, or they're maybe a little like worried that you might notice it's there. And so instead, they're gonna throw all the machinations and schemes and all these convoluted plot lines at you so that you don't have to think too much about the fact of what's going on under the surface.

J

Jessi Chartier 05:40

But I yeah, I agree with that to a certain extent. But I think that there are a scenes in there that make it very overt, like the scene where the aunt is directly seducing or trying to seduce Danny, I'm sorry, Wiley, the the older brother, which there's been enough hint and subtext to it, that it feels like she's not it's clear that she's not doing this for the first time. It's clear that she has tried to seduce him in the past, and probably been very successful at it. And even like the comments that Luke, the younger brother will say, you know, because he while he says at one point in time, why didn't you leave? And Luke's responses? Well, I can't resist her appeal, or something to that effect. Like there's, there's just enough of it to make you go to LA, I get it. Like, I totally understand what's going on. But I kind of like the convoluted plotline, because it makes it messy. So one of the things that you learn, of course, as you're watching this is that this idea of the hairdresser scheming with Luke, I'm sorry, scheming with Wiley, the older brother, actually is, she's actually the girlfriend of Luke, and Luke and her are basically setting him up so that he will be blamed for murdering the aunt, and then all the money will fall to Luke.

J

Jen Myers 06:55

And the way they're setting him up is because they know that he has a fear of cats. And they're just all over there and talk about that talk about that, that there's so many cats. It's great. I love the cats. And well, this is another thing that I feel like this, this piece is definitely not as over, there's still a lot of cats around, man. Like there's just cats everywhere. And there's one in particular, which is an orange Tom that we see a lot. Like I said, I will say that I will take issue with the fact that this cat is the one that they keep returning to as like kind of not just the mass of cats, but an individual cat as the one who maybe is leading some sort of vengeful charge, but he looks like this sweetest little boy like I just want to, you know, pet his head and he doesn't look very menacing. So they should have got a much more menacing cat, but at the same time, those are the cats that won't do anything with you. So that's probably why this cat is the one that starring in it. But yeah, so we have just like cats around all the time. And I feel like it's partially it's there. Because Wiley has a fear of cats, like deathly fear, like he like seizes up and literally cannot deal with it. And so they're there for that. But they also kind of take on their own menacing force as the film goes on. So it's interesting there. Like I said, they're not I'm not sure exactly what they're after. If I before when we were talking about this, I describe

them as chaotic evil. And I kind of feel like that's what they're there for that they serve a purpose in Luke and Kassia's plot. But in the purpose of for the purposes of the film, I'm not quite sure what they're there for beyond just to kind of cause more bloodshed and chaos, which was cool, actually,

**J** Jessi Chartier 08:38

I think the only thing that they're there to design to do is like, so the eye of the cat, the the term of the film is kind of like someone's always watching. Mm hmm. Yeah. And that's really what the impression you get with this Tabby who's walking around everywhere, is that this Tabby is always watching. Right, forever watchful. And it's just, it's really the I find that kind of fun and kind of playful around, you will always get your comeuppance,

**J** Jen Myers 09:06

Right. And that's what the cats actually do at the end. So like, even if they're kind of just around watching. So again, yeah, spoiler alert here, but at the end when the plot is, is revealed, and you know that it's Luke and Kassia who are trying to do this, the cats are just like, Okay, we're gonna take care of this by now. And they straight up murder Kassia which is pretty gnarly. And yeah, they like they just take care of things from from that point on, and it's very, they're not just watching anymore. I don't know. They're always kind of menacing, though even the beginning. They're not just watching. So I guess that's the moral of the film is that if you think you're ever gonna get away with anything, be sure there's not a cat around. Otherwise they will tell you.

**J** Jessi Chartier 09:51

I think yeah, I think that one of the things that I really like, that I did like about the film, is that First off, the actress who plays and Danny is just delightful because she's this beautiful older woman who does not look her age in the film by the way. Yeah, she looks incredible. She's so beautiful. But she's all she plays this really desperate and yeah, I was clearly codependent. Yeah. Has this fascination with her older nephew.

**J** Jen Myers 10:23

Yeah, even though like clearly she has done bad things. I maybe that's one of the reasons I didn't want to like, look too deep into this because I felt so much sympathy, sympathy with her just because she just felt so like, yeah, desperate and miserable, in a way. And I just, I don't know, like I had this really misplaced sympathy with her that I just wanted her to not necessarily get what she wanted, but maybe find a healthier way to be happy. Let's put it

**J** Jessi Chartier 10:50

that way. Yeah, she was so lonely. Yeah. And I think that that's she ended up obviously choosing the wrong outlet for that. But then she ended up just sinking farther and farther and farther into it. And but the storytelling and the use of the cats is actually quite delightful. This is

partner into it. And but the storyline and the use of the cats is actually quite delightful. This is definitely not a horror, a typical like slasher horror by any means. But I love the fact that the cats at the end of the movie don't attack. Really anyone other than the woman who was coming to threaten the relationship of the aunt and her nephews. Yeah. That's true. They killed it. You know, they don't go after Luke. They obviously they don't go after Wiley, because he's scared of them doesn't go after the aunt. But they go after her. I just I just find that really,

**J** Jen Myers 11:42

the only other thing that I kind of in this one is me reaching of it. I don't think it's as supported in the texts. But I also kind of connected the cats to Danny and Danny, specifically. That, yeah, they're almost like it. Again, bit of a reach. But it feels like there could you could make the case for there being a little bit of like a psychological extension. And I think that that the strongest piece of evidence for that is in the fact that yeah, they kill Cassia who's the female interloper? And so I think that and I don't know if this is what they meant you to think and it was just too oblique, or if I miss something, so I feel like I got hints, especially at the end, that the cats were this force that were kind of it was kind of coming from the aunt. But like I said, That's not made super specific. So it could just be being being fanciful, but I liked that reading of it.

**J** Jessi Chartier 12:35

I think that that's actually an appropriate reading, because she has a scene in the park with Wiley. When he says, Why did you get so many cats? And she says I didn't they just came in, right? Yes. As Yes. Suddenly, they were just there. And there were more and more and more of them. Yeah. And then she immediately goes into because you had run away. It was almost like they are her own. It's almost like they are her own inner demons type of thing. They are a psychological extension of herself. You're absolutely right.

**J** Jen Myers 13:05

Um, they came in, in a form that he is terrified of. Yeah, like, yeah, there's this this kind of paradoxical what like you said, codependence weird stuff going on? You know, where there are cats. And that's the one thing that he is like, yeah. Terrified of.

**J** Jessi Chartier 13:25

Yes. Yeah. So good.

**J** Jen Myers 13:27

There's there stuff going on here. It's some Yeah, this one I just watched. I didn't this was not on my radar at all. This is one that you had stumbled across and you recommend it? And like you said, it's on Shudder. So I'm like, Sure, why not. And I don't think I had any idea what to expect. And it's like, there's a lot, a lot of things going on here. It's like swingin' 60s. There's this kind of European feel to it. And then you've got Yeah, this kind of this convoluted,

scheming plot going on. And then you've got a bunch of cats. And so I do think it's, it's fun to watch. And I think it's kind of good to go in without a lot of preconceived notions so that you can kind of be open to all these different things that come up.

**J** Jessi Chartier 14:08

I think that's a great call. I mean, so one of the things that I have a question of that has nothing to do really with the state of horror or anything, but there's one character that has a dismissive or dismissed girl in Wiley's life. Who is, you know, the the woman that he runs into the woman he leaves at the beginning of the film. And then she shows up again, in the total 60s bar, which I'm so jealous of like, yeah,

**J** Jen Myers 14:38

this was released in 1969. So it was literally peak 60s.

**J** Jessi Chartier 14:43

So I mean, cushions on the floor. Somebody's like, it's just great anyway, and she returns. She's the only character in the entire movie with red hair. And I wonder if she's meant to represent she's supposed to have a connection with the tabby cat. Hmm,

**J** Jen Myers 14:57

maybe I didn't think about that. But that could, that could could, can connect. Yeah.

**J** Jessi Chartier 15:06

But I, it seems too loose for me to really be able to be like, yes,

**J** Jen Myers 15:11

this movie is kind of loose though, even though that it's got kind of all this plot and stuff going on, I feel like there's and I say loose in the sense of well kind of kind of like in a, you know, a swinging 60s way, like, we're just gonna, we're gonna throw all these things into the pot, and we're just going to kind of see what happens. You know, if, to me it feels like it's got that vibe. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just it's a it's got its own vibe like that. So it could be this, it could be something else. But I don't know, if they I don't think the film really cares. I don't feel like if the you know, if the film were an entity, it would be like you must read it this certain way. I think it is just more of a vibe. And I'm down for that. I like it. Yeah, I think so too.

**J** Jessi Chartier 15:52

I think so too. I think that this was an interesting prelude to our main movie, *The Innocents* where there is, everything is much more measured. I think it's interesting, because in the innocence, which we'll talk here in a bit, all of the feelings and relationships are so tight, like not tight as in like, there's just so tightly controlled. Everybody's so afraid. Yeah. There's so much more tension there. Because everyone's so afraid of what the children might see. Or, you know, people are it's I don't know, if it's a Victorian I can't remember the era but it's much. It's definitely not the 60s.

**J** Jen Myers 16:38

No, it's very nice. Yeah, it's I think it's late Victorian, reached the original. Yeah.

**J** Jessi Chartier 16:44

So it's very proper on the outside, right. And then this is the opposite of that, where it's like, anything goes type of reality, and it but they still have this underpinning of threats. There's this yes, this like you say it's not you're not sure if it's chaotic, good or chaotic, evil, but in this film, we think is chaotic. Good. Because at the end, Wiley decides he thought he came and did what he needed to do, which was to so his scheme, by the way, was never to stick around and get the money from the and his scheme was just to destroy everybody's life. I guess. I just to get rid of this woman who is trying to scheme this feline woman and leaves so he leaves and doesn't, doesn't look back. And I feel like he is like, who's the real cat in this one who's the real feline in the movie, it oscillates between a variety of characters, but in the innocence, it's almost like you're running away from the evil like you want to avoid it. And so there's a sense of repression. As opposed to I have the cat, which is very direct. It's like, No, I'm just gonna come in and burn the world.

**J** Jen Myers 18:02


Yeah, and I think it's almost the opposite, right? Rather than repression. It's, it's all about like, expression. That's, that's the other word. There's, you know, to the to the fool. But yeah, I think the thing that maybe you're you're getting there, at least what I what I'm pulling out of that is that it's not wholly good. Even though that either cat seems to end with a on a little bit of a lighter note, or a more optimistic note, clearly some bad stuff happened. So I guess what we're saying is that it's neither approach the repression or the the kind of complete expression really solves the underlying problem.

**J** Jessi Chartier 18:38

Yes, I think that's a great way to put it that you will always have if you will always have the problem. If it's an unhealthy approach. Yeah. lessons for us all.

**J** Jen Myers 18:50

Yes. Also, cats.

 Jessi Chartier 18:54

So many cats. All right, dear listeners, thank you for listening in. Our next film we'll talk about is The Innocents which is super excited. I'm really excited to talk about that one, Jen. Yeah, we'll be good. Real excited about that one. But if you have any questions or have recommendations for us, you can always reach us at hello at quietlittlehorrors.com You can find us at quietlittlehorrors on Instagram. And I cannot remember our Twitter handle because it's slightly

 Jen Myers 19:21

different is slightly different just because of the Twitter character limit. So on Twitter, we are just quiethorrors.

 Jessi Chartier 19:27

We'll see you in the next episode. Thanks everyone.