

## “The Favorite”

### Duck racing and rabbits

Setting up the background for the story will add to the richness of the film. With a war between the British and French as a backdrop, the story focuses on the relationship of Queen Anne and Weiss, the court's favorite. Queen Anne seems to be losing herself. She doubts herself, it falling ill and becoming a mad queen. Weiss, being a close friend and confidant, is the only one close enough to tell the queen how it is and in a brutally honest way. You can tell that this relationship has a very strong foundation.

Enter Abigail Fletcher, played by Emma Stone, the distant cousin of Weiss, who is greeted at the door of the palace covered in mud after being thrown from her carriage. It would be an understatement to say that Fletcher was down on her luck. She coming from a similar background as Weiss, comes from nothing like it now. She has lost her Ladyship, due to her idiotic father's gambling, a man that she continues to try to protect. But this little piece of information will be vital to understanding what drives her to do the things that she does. She simply wants back what was taking away from her. We learn that she can be as manipulative and conniving as Weiss.

This leads to the main drama of the film. The competition between Fletcher and Weiss on being the court favorite. The levels each one of them is willing to go add to the enticing story. Robert Harley, play by Nicholas Hoult, tries to use Fletcher to progress his own politically aspirations, ones that are in conflict with Weiss. Fletcher sees this opportunity to drive a wedge between Weiss and Queen Anne, joins Harley and the begin to work their agenda. This plan success in the end

as Fletcher becomes court favorite and Harley the Queen's chief minister.

The film is a wonderfully crafted film. It is superbly written with better direction. It is unquestionably one of the favorites for several of the academy awards. I can easily see it being nominated for many awards and could easily be the favorite for all of them.

## “Can You Ever Forgive Me”

Lee Israel, played by Melissa McCarthy, is the driving force of the story which is based on her 2008 memoir of the same title. The complexity and fascinating details of Israel's story help push the theme and narrative of the film. Israel, who at the time the movie begins, is no longer the renown biographer that she had once been. When we enter into her life, she is working another job to supplement her income for her cat and drinking; Her life is in shambles. She begins to forge personal letters by literary figures and sells them after discovering one on a subject that she planned her next book on.

While this is a novel concept, what ultimately brings the audience into the movie is the character of Israel. She is a hateful women to those that she knows and down right mean to those that she doesn't know. Israel is not a likeable character, but that's ok, she doesn't need to be likeable. She is relatable, but we will get to that later.

Israel has trouble with the existence that she has made for herself. She constantly reminisces about the past and how she was born too late. She has grown overly attached to her cat that is a gift from a past lover, a past lover that she continues to call even though the lover has moved on with their life. This really drives home what the movie is trying to capture about Israel. She is not asking us for forgiveness, she is asking herself. She can't seem to let go of the past

and this leaks into her professional life as well. She puts such a focus on writing in the style of her subjects that she doesn't find her own style. A theme that is pointed to in her monologue near the end of the movie. She needs to accept herself and her past to be able to move on.

As you can see, I have given a good deal of thought to *Lee Israel and Can You Ever Forgive Me*, but it is not without its flaws. I think the film fails to deliver on the strong base material that it has to work with. One flaw being an attempt to make Israel more likable in the film. She is not a likable person and doesn't need to be presented as such. She is a very relatable character. It is easy to see ourselves in Israel. She is someone who is in a place in their life that they don't want to be in, whether that be professionally or personally. We can relate to that and empathize with her in that way. The attempts to make her more likable undermine the plot. Another flaw is that the film seems to lose focus during some aspects of the film.

Ultimately, *Can You Ever Forgive Me* is a extremely interesting story that fails to deliver on some aspects of the film compared to the source material. It has fine acting, that will be nominated for awards in this coming awards season, but the lackluster directing will hold the movie back from what it could have been.

## “Bird Box”

Bird Box is a Netflix original movie that starts off with leaving in what you think is normal world but slowly but surely the world has been taken over by deepest darks fears. The movie has apocalyptic feel that was turned upside down. You never really no what to expect.

I think a lot of people online calling in scary. You either hate this movie or you like it. There is no in between. I would describe it as freaky. Which probably wondering what I mean. The concept of walking round with blind fold and using your ears is strange but when you think of it because if you don't your deepest darkest fear will take over and who will have no control on what you do to yourself. As I said early it takes your deepest and has shown you right in front of you to where end yourself. Can you image walking outside have deepest fear where only you can see it and then you end your life after you see it.

Throughout entire movie you see this and how it affects people. The struggle of not able to go outside without blind folds and living in fear. It also shows how far will you go to keep yourself and the ones you love safe.

I like the movie well I thought it was little strange and kind what the heck. Still overall like it but I did not find it scary at all. To some people it might be scary. I think overall if you watch horror films you will not think this movie is scary but it will give you a little of thrill just because it makes you wonder and how you be in that situation.