

# Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

## Cats on Film Pod Episode 7 Batman Returns (1992)



INTRO JINGLE

SHOW INTRO

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. There will be spoilers.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Today, we're reviewing *Batman Returns* from 1992, the second Michael Keaton Batman.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Let's recap!

The movie starts with the Penguin's origin, which unfortunately shows him caged as an infant. A white fluffy kitty hangs out near the cage and gets pulled in, and presumably eaten alive!

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Very bad. Not only animal cruelty but child cruelty as well. Plus, they're perpetuating the stereotype that only fluffy white cats live in nice homes.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
The lead cat is a black shorthair named Miss Kitty, who is an indoor/outdoor cat. She lives in Gotham City with a skinny blonde white lady named Selina. Selina gets pushed out a window by a mean rich white man because she discovered his evil plans to hoard electrical power. Selina survives and is revived by a cluster of alley cats biting her. She stitches together a shiny catsuit with pointy ears and starts acting like a vigilante.

CLIP FROM BATMAN RETURNS  
CATWOMAN

I don't know about you, Miss Kitty, but I feel so much yummier.

RAY  
Catwoman's only cat power seems to be that she survives falls. Plus there are some animal puns, and she pretends she's gonna eat a live bird, then starts grooming herself by licking her arm and rubbing it on her head.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Catwoman *does* bring Miss Kitty on one adventure -- a visit to the stinky, deathly pale Penguin, but he threatens Miss Kitty with an umbrella knife, so she stops tagging along.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Exactly. Anyways, Catwoman bravely violates social norms, since the society running on those norms keeps putting her down and trying to kill her. Ultimately, she triumphs over all the men attacking her and trying to force her to fit their notions of how a woman should behave. In the end, she maintains her independence while Miss Kitty gets picked up by a millionaire in a limo.

CLIP FROM BATMAN RETURNS  
BRUCE WAYNE

Alfred, stop the car!  
MISS KITTY  
Meow

RAY  
As much as I'd love being surrounded by, like, twenty kitties, seeing all those cats biting Selina after she fell always grosses me out.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
I'm surprised you consider it a positive depiction of cats.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
*Ah* – violence as empowerment – attacking the oppressor “owner” and vampirically imbuing her with feline traits.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Great point, Skipper. All the live cats seem to be treated well – they're mostly just hanging out or being held fairly gently.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Oh, yes – Selina's breakdown. Miss Kitty and her friends *do* have to dodge some flying debris.

SKIPPER  
meows

RAY  
Her breakdown comes right after Shrek pushes her out a window. She gets home to find a Shrek's ad for perfume on her answering machine that suggests women should hit on their bosses. So, y'know, having just barely survived her boss's murder attempt, Selina doesn't take it very well.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Yes, the cats. The logo for Shrek's department store is a cat face that resembles Mickey Mouse, so it also resembles racist old Sambo caricatures. Shrek is co-opting the image of felineness for profit, and not even in an original way. Another great reason for Selina as Catwoman to blow it up with domestic items – some aerosol cans in a microwave oven.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Plus that open gas line.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Yeah, since we keep seeing the Shrek's logo around Gotham even after Catwoman blew up the store, he must have more than one location.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Or it's a massive plot hole. But overall, the whole thing *does* end with cats.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

I'd say replacing her high-pitched, slinky violin theme with Elfman's bombastic *Batman* theme is really less about Catwoman losing her felineness, and more about her taking on a heroic role – and possibly a spin-off – while Bruce Wayne takes on the caregiver role with Miss Kitty.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

*Laughs* Yes – while Alfred continues his caregiver role!

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

*Laughs* Skipper, how many “paws” do you give *Batman Returns*?

SKIPPER

Meow, meow

RAY

I agree – two out of four paws for *Batman Returns*. Miss Kitty and her friends have the power to make a human more feline, but Catwoman takes a lot of punishment.

SKIPPER

meows

RAY

Yes, and the fluffy white cat being eaten alive. *Ugh*.

SKIPPER

meows

END STING

RAY

Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod*. Know anybody who loves gothy anti-heroes? Remember to 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](http://FreeSound.org).

Find out which movies we’re reviewing next month in our e-newsletter. Sign up at [CatsOnFilmPod.com](http://CatsOnFilmPod.com).

Cats on Film Pod!

SKIPPER

meows