

Film Title and Release Date: Zoo (2018)

Film Length: 98 Minutes

Film Genre: Historical Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Naysa T., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 20 2021

This film takes place in the year 1941 in Belfast Ireland. We meet the main character Tom, who is a 12 year old boy trying to sneak into the zoo. His dad is a zookeeper and Tom goes to visit often. The zoo is getting a new animal; an Elephant. Tom's friends are all the animals in the zoo and he doesn't have many human friends. When Tom goes to visit the Elephant he decides to name him Buster. Tom's dad has to go to war and leaves Tom to care for Buster. This film takes place during World War 2 and to prepare for bombings the zoo owners decided to kill any big animals that could cause chaos in the city like lions, and elephants. Tom thinks it's his job to save Buster so he gathers some people from his school. He and two classmates, Pete and Jane all go out one night to steal Buster through the back entrance of the Zoo. They take Buster to an old lady's house who loves animals. Her name is Denise and she has all sorts of small animals. They have Buster safe but the zoo has a bounty for him. Now everybody in Belfast is looking for a loose elephant. The Kids are proud of themselves but realize that Buster is very very sick. At the zoo the veterinarian gave Buster medicine daily because he has a malnutrition disease. Now Buster doesn't want to eat any food so the kids have to go back into the zoo. Tom and Jane decide to go on the night of an air raid to get the medicine. Many houses are destroyed and many people die. Jane dies in the bombings just to save Buster and that means alot. In the end Tom and Pete realize they can't keep hiding Buster and talk to Charlie, the zoo ticket person. Charlie lets The kids put Buster back in the Zoo with no problems and he doesn't get killed.

How did you find this film on Kanopy?

I found this film while casually browsing.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot of this film kept me interested because it was scary to see if Tom, Jane and Pete would get caught at tight situations. I liked how the suspense kept rising in the movie until they returned Buster.

Was the pace of the film too fast too slow or just right?

The pace of this film was just right. The film was spaced out and there were not too many major events right after one another.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for all grade levels.

Rating:

I give this film 4 stars. I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch. I liked how this movie was based on a real life event. It was emotional to see the \bombing but in the end the kids made the right choice.