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Sand Storm

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Sand Storm

Abstract

This is a film review of *Sand Storm* (2016) directed by Elite Zexer.

Author Notes

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Sand Storm

(2016)

Written and Directed by Elite Zexer

This is one of those gems you often find at the Sundance Film Festival. The cinematography is excellent. It gives you a feel for the land of the sand. The acting is superb--bold when it needs to be and, more importantly, subtle when subtlety is called for. And, *Sand Storm* is a surprising story. The storm of the movie is not a storm of sand at all, but a storm of family, a family that lives in the land of sand.

This is the story of a mother, father, and daughter. Sound simple? No, it is complicated by the father taking a second wife and the daughter falling in love with someone from a different

tribe. All of this is observed by the daughter's younger sister who represents the future of the family.

At the beginning of the movie we see that the father is more liberal than the mother. He lets his daughter drive the car, until they get to the village, where they then trade places. But when the daughter falls in love with someone outside the tribe, we find that the mother is more sympathetic than the father. This may be in part because the father has taken a second wife. But love seems to be more important than the religious and tribal rules that govern the lives of the family. It is almost a perfect storm.

It is interesting to note that although this is a film about a Muslim family, it is clearly a story that could easily apply to people of many different religions. The details might be different, but the basic issues remain the same. It is a universal story that resonates with all of us.

The younger daughter observes the family storm. She wears blue jeans and does not wear a hijab. She is not happy with the way the family behaves. Her older sister has taken some steps beyond the traditional rules, but she cannot escape. We see the younger sister as the family member that will move even further beyond the traditional rules. There is hope. We can eventually get beyond the storm.