COOKIE

LITTLE COOKIE

French with English subtitles

Directed by: Lea Fazer
Genre: Family comedy drama
Country of origin: France
Runtime: 98 min.

SYNOPSIS

Adeline is a flight attendant. One day upon her return from work, Liang Min Su, her cleaning lady, asks Adeline to keep an eye on her son while she runs an errand. Liang Min Su disappears. Adeline is left with this 6 year-old boy who cannot speak a word of French.

She does not even know his name so she calls him "Cookie". With the help of her sister Delphine and her family, Adeline will do everything to reunite Cookie with his mother… In the process, a bond of tenderness and affection grows between Adeline and Cookie.

REVIEWS

Profile of Cookie

The mood of Cookie is touching, uplifting, and sentimental. The plot centers around hopes, getting home, and kids in trouble. It is a drama, foreign, and comedy movie. Stylistically, Cookie stars a strong female character. In approach, it is realistic. The setting is France. Cookie happens in contemporary times. It is inspired by a film. It is especially suggested for a family outing.

http://www.jinni.com/movies/cookie-2013/

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

- The film is in French with some **Mandarin** and **Cantonese** spoken. Sometimes the Mandarin or Cantonese languages are left without any translation so that the viewer is in the same situation as the characters who cannot communicate. This is part of the plot.
  Because of this **difficulty of communication**, the French language is sometimes reduced to some basic words that do not make a sentence.
  Accent: at one point in the plot, in order to find out some information on Cookie's mom, Delphine imitates the accent of a Chinese person speaking French. It is intended to be funny.
  Jokes: "Chinetoque", a derogatory word of referring to Chinese people in French, I used to relax the atmosphere in a scene of the film.
- The characters speak an everyday French with some colloquial, familiar expressions and **infrequent coarse language** such as "con"/ "conneries" or "emmerdeuse".
- The English subtitles do not always reflect the idiomatic value of the French language. For instance when a character says something like "c'est n'importe quoi", it is translated as "Bullshit" which is a little too strong for this ordinary sentence.
  The same when one of the characters speaks of "ton petit Chinois", it is translated by "…your kid crap".

- We can read words like “dumbass” for “con” that has a different minor translation according to the context. In the infrequent use of coarse language “Screw that!” and ‘what the hell” are found.
- There is an **odd translation** of “fascists” in the film by “Sarkozysts”.

◈ VIOLENCE

The violence is close to nil except for a brief couple of slaps on the face. Two ex-lovers have a spat: Delphine slaps very briefly her ex-lover’s face.
As Adeline is searching on the web for information on China, the computer screen shows the picture of a man that looks to be lying dead, a very brief image that may not be noticed at all.

◈ NUDITY

None

◈ SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Brief scene of teenagers kissing in front of their high school almost in a background

Some kissing in a loving context especially when Delphine and her ex stage a scene to distract the Chinese custom officer from looking into Adeline’s hand luggage.

Sexual innuendo:

- Adeline is a young widow not interested in dating again. The pilot of the plane she works in as a flight attendant awkwardly courts her, which is comedic.
- Cookie being illegal in France, is suspected to live at Adeline’s. When the police inspectors search the house, they open a bedroom door where Adeline pretends to get ready for work: she is shown in her bra putting her blouse on while one of the inspectors looks at her generous décolletage.

◈ PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

An illegal Chinese immigrant in France is forced out of the country and leaves her son.

The topic of the film yields a series of emotional situations that can be a source of discovery and debate for school students.

- Leaving her child behind:

Cookie does not speak, he does not smile: he is sad to be separated from his mom.

- The conditions of living of illegal immigrants in Paris:

overcrowded rooms (bunk beds), innuendo of sweatshops and “bad guys” controlling the lives of the immigrants.

- The deportation is seen as a violation of human rights as young people are handcuffed and pushed into a van
- The inspectors barging into Adeline’s home
- The desperate ways to regain the country of origin:

Paying for illegal papers

Placing Cookie in a suitcase twice (the first time Cookie wets himself)

- Chinese Custom Officers:

The fright of Adeline of being caught
The strictness of Chinese Custom officers (prohibiting Delphine to speak on the phone)

- The caricatures/clichés on Chinese people

Size: as Cookie reveals to be big for his age, one of the character remarks that since they have become rich the Chinese are bigger in size.
Accent: Delphine imitates the accent of a Chinese person on the phone thus distorting in a funny way the French language
Attitude: "These Chinese are fearless" denotes in fact some admiration; the Custom Officers and their intransigence.
Human rights: "you don't want to end up in a Chinese prison" or again the very brief research Adeline does on the Internet to know more about China.

The treatment of the topic: humanitarian, kind and comedic

The bond between Adeline and Cookie reinforced by the love and understanding of Adeline's family (sister, niece, brother-in-law and sister's ex-lover) changes Cookie into a protected, cherished little boy who is even considered for adoption.
This outcome almost erases the melancholy of the mom having to leave her child behind.

The sadness and sometimes outrage felt by Adeline and her sister about the treatment of the illegal immigrants underline that the situation is not acceptable and accuses France of being guilty also of not respecting basic human rights.

The fact that the phone conversation was spied upon by the French Police also wants to denounce that the rights of people (and young people) are not respected to the point that they can organize demonstration when and where they want. This is another poke at democracy and freedom of expression (a hot topic nowadays).

"The French are gullible" seems to say the film as Delphine's husband buys a false passport for 2,000 Euros.

There is an attempt in the film to deal with teenage daughter-father relationship that emphasizes the awkwardness of both to connect. At one moment, the father offers a cigarette and a glass of wine to his teenage daughter who pretests as she indicates that as teenager she is not allowed to drink or smoke. The scene was intended to be funny.

All the clichés spun out of the film mock the lack of general knowledge of the French surrounding China as well as their fear that generally comes from ignorance.

Tobacco use

Delphine tends to light up a cigarette a little too often.

In conclusion, the film shows an optimistic side of a serious problem that originally put Cookie in a sad situation that is luckily transformed into a positive experience that ends

up uniting a child with his mother and creating bonds of love and affection between two characters from two different civilizations one European and one Asian, a symbol of friendship between two continents.

PICTURE GALLERY FROM THE FILM

Lee Yu nicknamed « Cookie »

Adeline and Delphine, the two sisters

Adeline spending quality time with Cookie

Adeline says goodbye to Cookie after reuniting Cookie with his mother