

MOVIES

HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES

A stunning portrayal of a family's love, greed, and grief – warts and all

RAIAN ABEDIN

Not often does a movie come along that is so difficult to summarise in a handful of words. The genius of this film, though, lies in how it unravels – it sets off with the viewer having certain expectations and grows with every new scene to showcase something vulnerable and profound yet not altogether beautiful.

The emotions on display throughout the movie are by no means subtle but are written and directed so carefully to instil the feeling of life in every scene.

The basic premise follows M, a university dropout, as he tries to spend more time with his dying grandmother in hopes of winning over some of her inheritance upon her passing. It's a fairly ugly premise to start with but had that been the only layer to this movie, it

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wouldn't have been half as devastating as it is.

Over its two-hour runtime, the film allows itself to breathe and grow, and become endlessly complex in how it presents its characters, their motivations, and their dynamics with one another. Amidst it all, the character whose emotions take centre stage is M's dying grandmother. Played most wonderfully by Usa Semkhum, her character is at once wise, selfish, and irritable in ways only someone of her age faced with her own mortality can be.

The other half of the emotional burden in this film is carried largely by our protagonist, M. His growth in the film is not entirely out of the realm of expectations. It is only through his relationship with his grandmother that he is able to grow out of the narrow world he had created for himself. The emotions on display throughout the movie are by no means subtle but are written and directed so carefully to instil the feeling of life in every scene. The filmmaking is reminiscent of works by Kore-eda, and the cool colour grading and soft melancholic score only work to emphasise this feeling.

In many ways, this film serves as a reminder of the troubled and often mysterious ways families and generational inheritance work. More than that, it is a form of love that ceases to exist when you start counting down the minutes until you have to leave. The film explores this, celebrates it, and perhaps even tells us of the grief this kind of love carries.





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