

# **THE LITTLE KITE (INDIGENOUS DRAMA)**

**Evaluation**

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
8	7	7	8	7	8

Era	Modern
Locations	Latin America
Budget	Low
Genre	Drama,Family Drama,Family
Logline	A Mayan woman and her 8-year-old daughter struggle to support their family with traditional weaving.
Pages	103

## Strengths

Powerful, personal, and evocative, “Little Kite” is a rich and fulfilling family story that offers an in-depth perspective, both harrowing and hopeful, of culture surviving in the face of poverty, and the resilience of dreams. The premise is fairly simple, but the characters and their world are not, and as we see the totality of Veronica and Tomasa’s lives and struggle, we can appreciate all the more what they are going through and how hard they work. The script is candid with the hardships, how Veronica works so hard for so long only to be shortchanged when she tries to sell the fruit of her labors, which is also a significant cultural symbol as well, of her family and her people, what she is coming from and what she is trying to preserve. Tomasa does not always please her mother, but the love and family bond is there, and Tomasa shows that she has potential as well. Tomasa faces doubt in the form of sexism when she tries to make a kite of her own, but she proves the doubters wrong, and Mr. Mérida’s acknowledgement is a beautiful moment. The ending, where we finally see the rare Quetzal bird in real life, is magical.

## Weaknesses

It might be a good idea to let us actually get to meet Veronica's husband/Tomasa's father as an onscreen character in the first act, before he leaves them in such dire straits. We don't know at the end if he is ever going to return or not, which would make a big difference. Another significant character mostly offscreen is Grandfather. Grandfather's death is somewhat the inciting incident most of the story revolves around, but we don't get much of a chance to know him either. Tomasa's visionary dream of him is meaningful and memorable, but it would also be nice and potentially powerful to show Veronica with her father as well, either in flashback or perhaps a dream of her own.

## Prospects

“Little Kite” stands out for its cultural perspective and strong female leads. There are few films that portray modern Mayan life in such vivid and affectionate detail, so the script stands out for that. The combination of raw, honest drama with spiritual whimsy is powerful, and the audience should connect.