

LUVENA

A comedy about grief

Genre: Dramedy

Logline:

18-year-old Gabby is dead but determined to help her grieving mother, Meg, move forward. In a series of misguided but well-meaning attempts, Gabby's bumbling interventions complicate Meg's carefully managed grief—until Gabby realizes that stepping back is the only way to let her mother live.

Tone Comp:

Little Miss Sunshine meets *Clueless*—a grounded, rhythmic comedy about grief and the absurd ways we try to fix the people we love.

Story Overview:

From the afterlife, Gabby tries everything to push Meg forward—from subtle nudges (intrusive dreams) to unmistakable signs (she sends an adorable “stray” dog...without regard for its real owners who search for it). Her efforts escalate into increasingly over-the-top interventions (burning down a popular harbor esplanade in their coastal New England town).

Guiding her—often reluctantly—is Henry, her blunt, unsentimental grandfather. More comfortable here than he ever was in life, he pushes back on Gabby's afterlife boundary issues.

In the living world, Meg begins to rebuild her life—deliberately, through discipline and forward motion, a performance of “okay” that masks the void Gabby left behind. Around her: a teenage son, a coven of lacrosse moms, her spicy therapist, and a new love.

As Gabby's efforts grow increasingly disruptive—and unintentionally comic—she begins to see the truth: her need to intervene is *her* issue, the last vestige of her human self. Her deeper fear—that Meg will forget her—is unfounded.

At the story's end, Gabby finally lets go. Meg visits her grave, grieving but steady.

In the final beat, we see a quiet, oak-lined library. A woman sits with her back to us, typing on a laptop. As the camera tracks over her shoulder, it becomes clear this is Meg—writing *Luvana* to honor her daughter and her own loss.

Characters:

- **Gabby:** An earnest, slightly controlling daughter who believes love means fixing everything—even after death.
- **Meg:** A disciplined woman rebuilding her life after losing her daughter.
- **Henry:** Gabby's grandfather and reluctant guide in the afterlife. Blunt. Allergic to sentimentality. He is ultimately the one who sets her straight.
- **The Chorus:** A support system of young souls who treat the afterlife like a never-ending group chat.

Themes:

- **Grief & Guilt:** Gabby's afterlife journey is driven by the belief that her mother's pain is her fault.
- **Control:** Both women equate fixing with love.
- **Release:** The hardest act of love is allowing the people we care about to move forward without us.
- **Life After Suicide:** A story not about death, but about what remains when love has nowhere to land.

Visual Approach:

The story moves through sharp jump cuts between Gabby and Meg, letting their parallel journeys echo and collide. Flashbacks emerge organically from Meg's perspective, grounding the film in lived memory rather than nostalgia.

Gabby's afterlife feels intimate and character-driven—less celestial fantasy and more imagined continuity—centered in a gloriously messy gaming room with ADHD energy, populated by her de facto Greek chorus.

Narrative Lens:

Told through parallel journeys: Gabby navigating a vividly personal afterlife, Meg navigating the visible world—*Luvena* explores how connection endures even as separation becomes necessary.

Writer Bio:

Mary Rose Almasi writes about female intimacy, ambition, and emotional contradiction with wit and precision. *Luvena*, her first feature screenplay, grew out of her experience of loss—and the act of writing through it.