

Girl Squad

Written by Miriam Freund

Gwen, 29, struggles to find herself throughout the chaos and pandemonium that is relationships, friendships, and work life. This is a romantic comedy and a story that proves a woman can have it all, if she so desires.



Critical Analysis

★★★★★

FILM FESTIVAL

Despite the fact that her personal life, social life, and career life are all in turmoil, Gwen, 29, is attempting to find her place in the world.

We found, upon first reading Miriam Freund's screenplay, that the script's presentation of ideas and the way in which those notions were transmitted to the viewer were strong points. Interestingly, despite Gwen's quest to meet the "ideal man," she finds that her friendships with Barbara, Kristen, Ellie, and Clara do more for her spirit. The members of the "girl squad" help Gwen realize that her

life is beautiful without the illusion that a perfect man exists. Gwen's ultimate goal was to feel accepted, and this desire worked well at the conclusion of the screenplay, albeit with a decidedly X-rated denouement. This topic doesn't become apparent until the film's climax, but it works well within the third act's constraints.

The next item up for debate is the old saying that "*the grass isn't always greener on the other side.*" Gwen's conviction that she will become a better person as a result of the relationships she cultivates runs against her idea that her life would be complete once she has the man of her dreams.

Caleb, on the other hand, has always been something of that person for her. When she finally finds her girl squad and makes friends with them, she realizes that her life has been wonderful the majority of the time. It is possible that we cannot fully appreciate the splendor of our own lives unless we take a step back and observe them from afar. Gwen had been in need of a push, and she received it in spades following the brawl at the bar. The realization that she may lose her pals drives her into a spiral of despair, which is fantastic in showing that Gwen is capable of caring about someone other than herself.

This film has echoes of other R-rated comedies such as *Bridesmaids* and *Girls Trip*. There are numerous comedic possibilities, and there was some romantic humor in the screenplay that we thought would be interesting to explore. One aspect of this script is the back-and-forth flirting between Gwen and Michael. There are times when Michael appears to be attempting to persuade Gwen that he is the right man for her. If this is the case, the story should address this more explicitly. For example, if Michael shows

up at Gwen's house with chocolate and ice cream, he has the opportunity to make a move on her. Gwen may reject it, making their friendship awkward, but it would at least explain why Michael has previously flirted with her in the script.

Getting back to the earlier point, the script does want to be a romantic comedy. Considering the cast, Caleb should have a larger role. For the most part, he's been showing up at the end, after everything for Gwen has been resolved, so he might as well be an expendable character at this point. Caleb might show up earlier in the story, perhaps while he is out on one of his own terrible dates and runs into Gwen.

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They say hello to each other awkwardly and maybe there's a brief scene where they want to text each other about how terrible their dates were. They're no longer in a position to share their secrets with one another, but doing so would show their audience how much they miss being together despite the breakup.

When the script's humor descends into slapstick territory, it's very funny. Great visual when Barb's heels get stuck and Kristen is just munching on a hot dog. It might be a good idea to play up the comedy and give the girls more opportunities to show off their individuality in more "humanistic" scenes. Allow each person to stand out in their own unique ways.

Many grammatical mistakes can be found throughout the text, and this is another area that needs polishing. Even though we might want to ignore them in favor of the script's story, themes, and structure, those glaring errors cause the reader to pause and stutter. It's possible that the script's legibility could be improved

with another readthrough. Even though Gwen's trip to the Denovacon in an attempt to catch Caleb cheating on her serves as the motivator for this story, she doesn't get into a lot of other scrapes throughout the rest of the story.

Conflict is the fuel that drives drama, and we need to know more about what is preventing Gwen from getting this "perfect" man. It's funny to watch the montage of the awful dates she goes on, but after that, not much more happens with her character.

Again, if she is out and sees Caleb on a date, it could derail her plans and make her want to fight even harder for this search. Perhaps Gwen has a big fight with her friends, then goes out on the town and tries to join some other spontaneous girl squad, which goes horribly wrong. There should be more conflict with Gwen realizing that her friends and Caleb were truly what she needed.

There is a solid foundation for this script, as well as plenty of laughs. However, there is currently insufficient conflict for Gwen for the story to remain a romantic comedy in which she eventually gets the life she always desired. Even so, we think Miriam Freund is a wonderful writer, and we hope this gets adapted for the big screen soon.