The Weight of Tender Things

ORIGINAL FEATURE FILM • ROMANTIC / LITERARY DRAMA • IN DEVELOPMENT

LOGLINE

Haunted by childhood abandonment and terrified of being truly loved, a solitary ceramic artist flees the woman she loves and retreats to a fogbound coastal town. But when an unexpected friendship and a devastating loss force her to confront the past she has spent her life escaping, she must decide whether to keep running or finally risk the vulnerability of belonging.

PITCH

What if the greatest obstacle to finding love isn't being unloved - but believing you're unworthy of it?

The Weight of Tender Things is an intimate, visually poetic drama about abandonment, emotional survival, and the courage it takes to accept love.

Ellie, a thirty-four-year-old ceramic artist, has spent her life perfecting the art of leaving. Abandoned as a child and raised by a loving nun in Barcelona, Ellie learned to protect herself by never depending too deeply on anyone. Even when she finds a rare, uncomplicated love with Tula in Madrid, she cannot escape the fear that eventually everything she loves will disappear.

So she leaves first.

Eleven months later, Ellie lives alone in a small coastal town enveloped in fog. She works with clay, fills journals with thoughts she cannot speak, and maintains a careful distance from the world.

But life begins finding its way through her defenses. A quiet gallery owner gives her art a place to be seen. A chance friendship with a warm, unconventional woman named Amy reminds her what companionship feels like. A sealed letter to Tula confronts her with everything she has never been brave enough to say.

And when the woman who gave Ellie her first experience of unconditional love dies, Ellie must finally confront the childhood wound that has shaped every relationship in her life.

Set against the contrasting warmth of Madrid and the muted beauty of a northern coastal town, The Weight of Tender Things explores the profound human desire to be loved - and the terrifying vulnerability of allowing ourselves to receive it.

This is not a conventional love story about winning someone back. It is a story about becoming someone who no longer needs to run away from love.

FULL SYNOPSIS

Contains ending spoilers.

Ellie has spent most of her life running from attachment. Abandoned at seven years old, she was raised in Barcelona under the care of Mother Magdalene, a compassionate nun who offered the stability, acceptance, and affection Ellie's earliest years had denied her. Although deeply loved, Ellie never fully escapes the belief that affection is temporary and that anyone who becomes important to her will eventually leave.

As an adult, Ellie builds a life as a ceramic artist, eventually sharing a Madrid apartment with Tula, a woman whose gentle and unassuming devotion challenges everything Ellie believes about relationships. Tula loves without conditions, demands, or emotional games. Yet the safety of their relationship terrifies Ellie.

Convinced she must discover who she is outside the protection of another person's love, Ellie abruptly leaves Madrid, abandoning Tula with only a brief note. She travels north to a small, fog-covered coastal town she has chosen almost at random from a map.

Eleven months later, Ellie lives quietly in an upstairs apartment overlooking the harbor. Her days revolve around pottery, solitary walks, coffee, and journal entries. Her only consistent social connection is Theo, the reserved owner of a small art gallery who allows her to spend afternoons sketching in silence.

Although her life appears peaceful, Ellie remains emotionally suspended between the past she escaped and the future she has yet to embrace. While unpacking boxes from Madrid, she discovers an unsent letter addressed to Tula. It forces her to confront the love she abandoned and the words she has spent years refusing to speak.

Small encounters begin altering her isolated existence. A stranger at Theo's gallery acknowledges her without expectation. The smell of fresh bread recalls Tula's kitchen and evenings together on a Madrid rooftop. Inspired by these memories, Ellie creates a ceramic sculpture representing two empty chairs and the space between them.

For the first time in years, Ellie exhibits her work. When a grieving visitor finds comfort in the sculpture, Ellie begins to understand that her private experiences can reach other people through art. Her growing friendship with Amy, a warm and openhearted woman, further challenges Ellie's emotional defenses. Amy offers companionship without demands.

Just as Ellie begins allowing herself to reconnect with the world, she receives devastating news from Barcelona: Mother Magdalene has died. The loss shatters Ellie's defenses. Mother Magdalene was the woman who showed an abandoned little girl that she deserved to be loved.

This time, Ellie does not withdraw completely. Amy offers quiet companionship during her grief. Ellie begins to recognize that her greatest fear has not simply been abandonment, but the vulnerability of needing other

people. She understands that Mother Magdalene's love was not charity, and that Tula's affection never demanded the surrender of her independence.

Ellie creates a new sculpture - a figure positioned at a threshold - representing the possibility of stepping toward life rather than hiding from it. Preparing to return to Barcelona for Mother Magdalene's funeral, she finally confronts the unsent letter and acknowledges the hurt she caused, the love she received, and her responsibility for leaving.

Without expecting forgiveness or reconciliation, Ellie sends the letter to Tula. The simple sound of it dropping into a mailbox marks a profound emotional release. As she prepares to leave, Ellie speaks openly to the quiet stranger from Theo's gallery instead of withdrawing.

There is no grand declaration and no promise Tula will return. Ellie travels to Barcelona carrying her grief, her memories, and the knowledge that love always involves the possibility of loss. But she no longer mistakes isolation for freedom. For the first time in her life, Ellie is willing to carry the weight of tender things.

Based on the original novel by Nonny Mendoza. The synopsis represents the intended feature-film adaptation and does not imply that a full-length production-ready screenplay is complete.