

Yours sincerely, Joshua / Gino D'Acampo Killed My Mum (w/t) – Comedy Drama Feature.

Autistic teen, JOSHUA, thinks the candy stripe on his wallpaper should taste of bon bons, and that his mum, PENNY's cancer, can be stopped. His encyclopaedic knowledge of Phineas and Ferb isn't much use so whilst working out what to do, he sends a letter to the Doctor caring for his mum, explaining why she must live.

When he returns home from posting it, KELLY, his Godmother, tells him Penny will be home later that day. Joshua writes another letter and when he gets back from posting it, Penny is home. Curious if there's a connection, he writes again, Penny sits up in bed. The next, she sleeps peacefully, even as he holds her hand. The next day, Penny calls him to her bed so they can watch Phineas and Ferb, but he's distracted, he wants to write, he talks about the letters, careful not to mention that it's very likely they are the reason she feels better, it's his secret to keep for now. Supporting Joshua's new-found interest, Penny agrees he can put an ad in the local paper, asking for nominations of NHS workers to write to. Within days, nominations trickle, then flood in.

Soon, Joshua barely leaves his room for all the letters he needs to write. Local radio wants to talk to him, a reporter shares his story. Penny makes it out in to the garden for fresh air. With success comes obsession. Bic offer him sponsorship, but he only wants to use the Phineas and Ferb pen that Penny bought him on their last Skegness holiday. Kelly wants him to eat, drink and shower, but he simply doesn't have time. The more letters he writes, the quicker Penny will mend. Why doesn't Kelly understand?

JOE, a postie, is asked to look after the letters, delivering sacks full each day. He helps Joshua set up a system to respond, he becomes a mentor, the only person Joshua listens to because as far as he is concerned, Kelly gets in the way and Joe holds the remedy. But the obsession is now myopic, and Joshua hasn't noticed Penny's deterioration.

When he's invited on to This Morning, Joshua is resistant; it's precious writing time. But Penny's favourite TV chef, Gino D'Acampo will be there so he reluctantly agrees to meet him on her behalf. He waits ages after the show to get his autograph, then Gino walks away with his pen. Traffic holds them up, it takes ages to get home, no letters are written. When he does finally get back, Penny doesn't wake.

Joshua urgently plays catch up, grabbing one of the bic pens, writing until his fingers cramp. But Penny dies. Joshua puts the pen down mid-sentence. He burns Gino D'Acampo's autograph, climbs in to bed, and stares at the ripped candy-stripe wallpaper that doesn't taste of Bon Bons.

Weeks pass, nothing draws him out of his depression, until a thank you card arrives. TRACY, an NHS worker whose life Joshua saved with a letter, wants to meet. They walk, talk and eat candy floss. Joshua lets her hug him and when he gets home, he realises what he must do. He goes to Penny's bed, puts on Phineas and Ferb, and finishes the letter he'd stopped writing when she died. Then writes the next, and the next, in between lunch and dinner and showers, because sometimes, you don't get to choose who your letters are going to save. *This is a story about fear, coping and survival.*