

Run it Again

Logline

Two sisters with picture perfect lives challenge themselves to run a marathon but are given some devastating news which change their lives forever. However, not all is at it seems and they find themselves having to start all over again with nothing, can they thrive and not just survive?

Genre - Romantic Drama with comedy

Plot Summary

Two successful sisters Helen & Kathleen, with no appreciation of what they have, challenge themselves to run the Boston Marathon. Not in the physical peak condition, they begin training but Helen starts to feel unwell at one session. She and her sister decide to go and have a health check but when they are given the results, they are both told they only have three months to live. Shocked and fearful they sell their houses, donate the money to charity and set off, ticking off all their bucket list items. It is interrupted by being called back to the doctor and told it was all a mistake.

Broke, homeless, single and without a clue, they must start over again. Without the comfort of their former lives, money, and staff they must get jobs and somewhere to live and finding love would be a bonus. After a few false starts Helen finally gets a good job, but Kathleen can only find work as a volunteer running a book club, however, she does find love with Amber. All is going well for both sisters until Kathleen is run over and killed by the doctor who had given them the news, they only had three months to live.

Helen is devastated and must rebuild her live AGAIN.

Whilst she is doing this, she meets up with her late sisters girlfriend and they not only start a friendship but falls in love despite never finding women attractive. Helen learns to thrive, love life and be grateful for each day and goes on to run the Boston Marathon in honour of her sister and parents.

Characters

HELEN, 51 years old has gumption and sometimes feels entitled, studious, likeable but can be intimidating and out of touch with reality. She does not like being told “no” and has been known to steam roll to get what she wants as she is a risk taker, adventurous and she feels she needs to look after her sister. Had a very tumultuous relationship with her mother which cemented her independence. Owns a very successful business and has a household of staff.

KATHLEEN is a 50-year-old people pleaser, gay, spiritual, alternative, who is softer with a more cautious side although just as adventurous. Street smart but felt she lived in Helen’s shadow. She is artistic but a sassy, strong businesswoman. She struggled with her relationship with her mother but was close to her father.

KIM, 26 marathon coach, who was bullied at school for being overweight which left a huge mark on her life. Running is not only her passion, but her therapy and she loves helping other women reach their goals.

REGINA, 57, Helen's housekeeper for 20 years. Knows the sisters very well she 'puts up with Helen' but adores Kathleen.

DR MORGAN, 38, English, has been Helen & Kathleen's physician for over 10 years, kind, charming.

DR RATCHET, 52 Wife just left him, and the kids are not talking to him. He had a big house which has just foreclosed, wife has cleared him out financially. She had been complaining to him, but he did not hear her, so he feels blindsided. He feels like a victim of life and is angry and bitter.

MATT, 18 Gay, works at the coffee shop with Kathleen. He is saving up to go backpacking, goofy and loveable. Very romantic so aspiring to be matchmaker.

AMBER, 45 years old, beautiful, and confident in who she is. She is a people watcher and does not get involved in drama. Lives alone and has a family who love her. She came out when she was a teenager and had some push back, but her parents supported her. She leads her life with compassion and loves books.

NICOLE, 23, prickly but wants to be liked. Comes across as superficial but there is a lot of depth and sadness. Ambitious, works in social media, mother recently died.

ADDISON, 35, CEO of the social media company. A tough woman but is fair and looks after her 'girls'.

RON, 59, Lawyer who has been a long-standing family friend. Opinionated and old fashioned.

ACT 1

Helen and Kathleen are sisters who appear to have and think they have everything. They own very successful businesses, have houses of staff who do everything for them, they do not have to lift a finger. They travel frequently in superstar luxury. Every year they set themselves a challenge and their intention this year it is to run a Marathon as they made a promise to their parents who were avid marathon runners. Unfortunately, they like their food and wine, so their fitness is not in peak condition. So, they set out a plan for their diet and exercise and hire a marathon coach. After a session Helen starts to feel unwell, Kathleen is worried so makes an appointment to see their doctor but also thinks it is a good idea to have a check-up too. They have all their bloods done and are told to come back in a few days to get the results.

On the morning of the results their regular doctor is held up and asks a colleague to stand in.

The stand in doctor's whole life is falling apart, his kids have moved out and have just stopped speaking to him, his wife left him that morning and he runs over his dog. He is angry, bitter and resentful of anyone who is enjoying life.

He goes to work, and his first patients are the sisters. He reads through their file and immediately feels disdain against them and wants them to suffer as much as he is, so he tells them both they have a rare genetic disorder and only have three months to live.

ACT 2

Helen & Kathleen are devastated but feel they need to make the most of their time left, so they embark on a round the world trip, sell their houses and donate the money to charity.

Three months go by, and it has been noticed that their health does not seem to be deteriorating but don't think anything about it.

They receive a message to make an urgent appointment back with their doctor. Fresh from a trip, exhausted but exhilarated and no more money in the bank, expecting to be organising their funerals (they already paid for) they go to see their doctor.

They are met with a very embarrassed, sheepish and uncomfortable doctor and the sisters are given the news they are not in fact dying. He admits the other doctor was having a breakdown and is now in a facility receiving treatment. He apologises profusely and tells them they are in perfect health, the only thing that was wrong with Helen is that she has low iron levels.

Completely disorientated, the sisters realise they have nowhere to go, no money and no one to turn to. They have enough money for two nights in a motel.

When they get to the motel, they start making another list - this time a simple one for how to get their lives back: Get jobs and get an apartment.

They visit the charity to ask for their donations back to get some money but that is not met with gaiety or cheer but a firm "no". They then go to the funeral people and ask for their money back. They are told they can have some of it back, they are disappointed but will take anything.

They start to look for an apartment but soon realise their budget does not include their usual luxury and they end up in a run down one-bedroom apartment with twin beds.

Next, they embark on finding jobs, they take their resumé's to the agencies who tell them the harsh truth that due to their age and lack of experience it is not going to be easy.

They go to various job interviews and do not have much success. Montage of going to interviews and doors slammed in their faces

Helen finally gets a job as a social media executive and begins to relax; she loves her new job but there are challenges. Most of the girls who she works for are in their twenties and she must find common ground with them as they do not remember Banarama, Wham or The Beastie Boys. She is shunned and left out and knows she can not keep up with their energy, drinking shots every night and lack of eating anything. One day they hear her story and are suddenly enchanted by her and that changes everything, however, there is one person in particular who she doesn't win over is, Nicole.

Kathleen finds a volunteer job but in a coffee shop, running their book club with a miserable boss. She finds solace in her colleague, Matt, and an old school friend, Amber. Kathleen befriends them then she realises she is falling in love but keeps it to herself.

Both sisters are learning to appreciate every day and each other and what they have which is something they have never done before, however, old wounds re-surface from their childhood as they try to navigate this new life. With this new lust for life, Kathleen decides to announce her love for Amber but on her way to tell her, she dies. She gets hit by a car that's being driven by the doctor who gave her news she had three months to live. He has escaped the institute where he was being treated, stolen a car and is being pursued by the police, doctors and security from the Institute.

ACT 3

A month later – still in the throes of grief, Helen throws herself into her work but one day collapses. Her doctor tells her to take better care of herself and gives her a few home truths. She wanders into the coffee shop where Kathleen worked and meets Amber, they get chatting. At work, Helen discovers the reason for Nicole's disdain towards her, she is the daughter of Dr Racht and guilt has been overwhelming. She seeks advice and forgiveness from Helen and they form a friendship.

Over the next few months, Amber and Helen also develop a strong friendship and for Helen, slowly the healing begins. She visits her sisters grave and we find out the reason why their relationship has been strained for so many years. It is revealed that their mother suffered from early onset dementia which caused violent outbursts. Helen protected Kathleen with all her will and continued until adulthood, but Kathleen had resented this.

Helen receives a check from a malpractice suit against the doctor and sends money to all her staff she was not nice to. She questions her thoughts that she is falling in love with Amber.

The end scene is Helen running over the finish line of the Boston marathon into the arms of Amber.

Montage of IG post of photo's showing her finishing the race, photo of Kathleen struggling to run and the photo of her parents at the finish line. Comments of Helen being congratulated by her work friends and surprisingly, the owner of the café Kathleen worked at.

Epilogue

Run it Again is a quirky comedy with an LGBTQ love story.

The theme of the feature is that starting over again is possible and we all have strength and resilience in us to do so. To thrive is to be grateful for what we have, including the successes, failures and even it is unexpected, and that life can be short. No one will rescue us, we have to deep dive inside of us, but we can use others as strength towers to get through sticky situations.

The sister's relationship changes. Originally there was resentment, but they come together through adversity and roles switch in different situations.

Helen realises to not judge people and that we all have our own struggles but sometimes fear rejection if we reach out and connect. Helen starts to right her wrongs and becomes a surprising mentor to Nicole. When we have a blank page, we are able to re-write our lives and be who we want to be, this is the whole premise of starting over.

