



Live Long



Trapped in a temporal loop following a fatal accident, a beleaguered florist makes the ultimate sacrifice to free herself and save her soulmate from repeated death.



Setting the scene



Imagine a talented florist who is also a keen landscape photographer, weary after her heart has broken over the same guy too many times.

Now imagine a Highly Sensitive Person, whose amplified receptors mean that he is entranced by the beauty that she epitomises.

There is an instant connection - his goofy charm, her talent. He can't help but be enraptured by her, and she's clearly into him (despite him being a self-confessed "acquired taste"), so he shrugs off her overly familiar behaviour.

After a disturbingly perfect day together, she vanishes, leaving a strange note behind and a whole heap of unease.

And so starts our poignant dramedy about Des and Noah's ill-fated romance - soulmates repeatedly ripped apart by the Grim Reaper's insistence that one of them must die.

Tone/Genre



Magical Realism

Dramedy



Imagine the poignancy of
The Time Traveler's Wife,
wrapped up in the sass of
Russian Doll, with a
garnishing of beauty

Romance



Main Characters



Mollie "Des" Penhaligon

Des arranges flowers, and has a penchant for Bleeding Hearts. Throw in a good camera and she will combine her talents to stunning effect. However, she is on a downward physical and mental spiral, having become obsessed with preventing Noah's repeated death. Her weighty secrets cause her to become isolated.



Noah Belmont

Noah is a Highly Sensitive Person. His appreciation of beauty is off the scale, alas also his sensitivity to pain. Precision calms him - you should see his sock drawer! He likes a quiet life - reading, cooking, golfing, classic movies. He has a tendency to disappear inside himself, which backfires when his relationship with Des becomes destructive.



Relationship Arc



Des blasts into Noah's peace, which both energises and disturbs him. He falls for her as he is captivated by their spark and to him, she epitomises the beauty that he is so in awe of - her flowers, her photos. Her. She loves his goofy charm and self-deprecating humor but hates his habit of dying.

They stumble through another attempt at saving Noah, but she is constantly on edge and he feels restricted. They cling to each other and shut everyone else out of their lives. They are ultimately doomed, as Des concludes that the only way to save Noah is to end her own life.

Noah is left scarred by her painful departure, but also with a promising new-found desire to open up.





Relationship Arc

As their best friends change and increasingly pull away from them, Marcus and Sadie are united in a common cause - split Des and Noah up. They are also left with a hole in their lives, which they paper over by using each other for sex.

Marcus clearly wants more, but Sadie is still reeling from her adulterous husband, and keeps him at arms' length. She eventually relents when she loses Des for good.

Two years later, they have a quirky wedding. Only at that point does Marcus realise he is basically marrying his hen-pecking mother. As the feature wraps, we get the sense they will live exasperatedly ever after...



Synopsis



In the aftermath of a car crash, Mollie howls with anguish as Noah dies, then she vanishes. Now called “Des”, she stumbles back into oblivious - and unscathed - Noah’s life, and they spend a disturbingly perfect day together. Des is gone by morning - leaving a note saying “Live Long”, and an uneasy feeling in besotted Noah that she seemed to know him already.

His cynical friend Marcus dismisses her, but Noah spies Des stalking him. He pursues her and acquires her journal. Flicking through it, he sees calendars of future timelines, indecipherable notes, photos of him with a beard, which he has never had. When Des returns for the journal, she faints and a panicked Noah deposits her in his bathtub, determined to get answers.

During a tense confrontation, Des reveals all: she has lived this relationship multiple times, each time failing to prevent Noah’s death. She dreads another attempt, but despite the likelihood of him dying again, Noah suggests that they work together to prevent it this time. If they fail, the time loop will likely restart and they can go their separate ways.

They build their love, one last time. Their happiness is soon blighted - Des restricts Noah's activities, as she battles her own failing health and disturbing memories. Marcus, along with Des’s acerbic friend Sadie, increasingly worries that Noah and Des are toxic for each other. Sadie and Marcus's reluctant union to rescue their friends morphs into an “enemies with benefits” relationship, with Sadie keeping Marcus at arms’ length. Their attempts backfire, as Des and Noah close ranks.

A premonition of Noah’s next death spooks Des, as does a positive pregnancy test result. The pregnancy eats away at her, and brings her to a crushing realisation - each time she has failed to save Noah, she was the one who should have died.

Des resolves to end her own stuttering life in order to save Noah’s. Poised on a cliff-edge, she explains to Noah why this is the only possible outcome - leaving him distraught in the wake of her plummet. Marcus and Sadie arrive just in time to pull Noah back from the brink. Reeling from her friend’s death, Sadie turns to Marcus for comfort.

At Sadie and Marcus’s quirky wedding, after two years of battling doubters, Noah reveals that there are others like him - collateral damage left by time travelers. He resolves to set up a support group, and looks forward to new beginnings.

Theme: Secrets



The self-destructive nature of secrets. The heavier the characters' secrets, the more isolated and miserable they become.

Why me, why this?



Des's final act is not suicide - it is self-administered euthanasia. She wants her life to end on her terms, rather than put herself and her loved ones through any further suffering.

As someone facing the possibility of developing a debilitating genetic illness, I think these stories need to be told in order to help shift the mindset and taboos around euthanasia.

Despite the tragic climax, this film is a beautifully quirky portrayal of everyday, flawed and often funny relationships that will appeal to a modern audience looking for layered content.

DES

Either way, it's over... The only choice I have left is whether it's on my terms.



Quirky



Beautiful



Funny



Messy



Tragic

The "Live Long" journey



"How real people deal with real topics like grief and love"

This modern tale of love, loss and secrets has already started to make waves... A producer requested it through Inktip, and it was selected by Audio Quants for a table read by professional actors.

The actors were blown away by this "beautiful story which pairs fantasy romance with the ordinary, drawing the reader in with down-to-earth, relatable themes and characters", and were confident that it would find wider audiences in film format.

"Oozing full of life despite the poignance threaded throughout"

Don't just take their word for it... Take a look at the script to see why Live Long is a feast for both the eyes and the heart, that will have audiences reaching for the tissue box (sometimes with tears of laughter!).

"Not an ounce of sappiness or cliché"

"Believable magical realism in its truest form"



Writer: Kat Rollinson

Kat is an award-winning screenwriter specialising in poignant comedy, romance and drama. Her flair for creating quirky storylines and layered characters has resulted in incredible feedback, which has acknowledged her masterful storytelling and charming style. Kat laughs, cries and screams right alongside her characters, which results in authentic and compelling scripts.

Contact kat_writes@whataline.com for further information or to discuss collaborating on this work of beauty

Check out whataline.com for Kat's ever-expanding portfolio





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