

Love on the Run  
A Treatment by Megan Rakoczy

EXT. CHICAGO STREETS -- DAY

It is late summer 2015. The Windy City is all hustle and bustle.

INT. DESIGN OFFICE -- DAY

CHRIS CASSIDY is at work with his company pitching a major deal to a client. "So that, my friends, is what the future of your company can look like..."

CLIENT claps and says he is going to consider giving Chris a shot at his design and would be in touch soon.

INT. LAW FIRM -- DAY

CAMERON ANDERSON just won a major case at his law firm. High on life, he carries himself through his firm. Head held high, his co-workers are congratulating him left and right.

INT. BAR -- EARLY EVENING INTO NIGHT

Opening on a Friday afternoon, Chris and Cameron meet up at a bar after work. They are joined by a few more buddies as the evening progresses. Chris and Cameron are equally successful. However, Cameron gets most of the praise and Chris is often undermined for the subject of his work. There is some definite tension coming from Chris.

Chris comments on the fact that he potentially landed a deal with a client. Cameron shoots back saying, "Well while you had out your colored pencils, some of us were busy being grown ups and hitting bad guys where it hurts." He goes on, "One of these days you should get yourself a real job. Put that sketchbook away and learn how to be a man."

Chris is taken aback by Cameron's comment but his appeasing ways prevent him from sticking up for himself. The rest of the guys around the table laugh with Cameron.

Cameron and Chris are "best friend," though, Cameron has a tendency to be bigheaded and push too far. Also a marathon runner, while gathered around, Cameron invites the group to

his big race in the morning. Everyone agrees to come support him.

EXT. RACE -- NEXT DAY -- EARLY MORNING

Runners are stretching, the finish line is being put up, and bystanders are arriving to cheer on the competitors. Cameron's friends arrive with signs to cheer him on. They are standing together in a group, goofing off, when the race starts.

Chris takes a call in the middle of the festivities. It's his design company. He just landed a deal. His friends all applaud him.

Focused back on the race, Cameron is now near the front. We watch as he passes the girl and two other guys ahead of him. He is now in second place as he crosses the finish line.

Cameron steps to the side and finds his friends. They all congratulate him for placing. Chris throws his arm around his shoulders and their friends dump a cup of beer on Cameron, soaking Chris as well.

As the friends gets ready to take a group picture Cameron takes off his runner's number and slaps it on Chris's shirt. They hold their signs and glasses up as they pose for the photo.

The local TV station wants to highlight the winners so they call the numbers and pull Chris out of the crowd because he is the one now wearing Cameron's number. Chris tries to pull away and says "wait, no, no, you have..." but Cameron encourages him to just go with it "That's all you buddy, it about time you get up in front of people, face those fears."

As Chris goes up we see Cameron in the background laughing at Chris's awkwardness in the situation. He has the whole group of guys hooting and hollering, trying to embarrass Chris as he goes up.

After accepting the prize for his friend, Chris is introduced to his future love interest, EMMA. She was the fifth place runner. The two hit it off, but Chris finds himself caught in a lie after letting Emma believe he was the second place runner. Emma asks if he will be at the

Kinder 5k. Cameron walks up behind him, slapping Chris on the back and saying, "He wouldn't miss it." Chris concurs.

Emma leaves, awkwardly trying to wave goodbye to Chris but Cameron keeps getting in the way. Before she completes her exit, Cameron makes a sexual comment towards her. Chris scolds him and Emma cumberously smiles before turning away.

Chris says, "Cameron, how am I supposed to get into a race last minute, don't you have to sign up for those things like way in advance?" Cameron says he will give him his spot, but it turns out to be a trick.

INT/EXT. WEEK -- DAY/NIGHT

Our characters buzz through the week, we see Chris hard at work with his job and also doing a lot of training with Cameron to prepare for the upcoming run.

EXT. KINDER RUN -- FOLLOWING SATURDAY -- DAY

Saturday roles around and when Chris shows up to the 5K he realizes the race is for a bunch of kids. He finds himself with no other choice but to run it. His buddies are all in the background making fun of him, and Cameron wears an enormous smirk.

Chris starts running with the kids. As the run goes on he comes up to a water stand that Emma is working at. The top ten runners from last week's marathon operated the water stand. This is what Emma meant when she asked Chris if he'd be there. She giggles at him and he tries to play off the miss understanding. Cameron is also working the stand. Smiling and hitting on Emma as Chris prepare to continue the run.

Chris goes forward with the race, running hand-in-hand with the kids, letting them all pass him. When he crosses the finish line, he goes over to Cameron and scolds him for making him look stupid in front of Emma. Cameron gives him an insincere apology and the rest of the group tells him to suck it up, it was just a joke.

Chris walks away angry, but is soon confronted by Emma. She tells him it was sweet of him to run with the kids. He uses this to his advantage and attempts to come off as gentle and caring towards the younger generations. She asks him to

come run with her in the Tough Mudder in three weeks. He accepts the invite.

Chris is back with Cameron and other friends. He brushes off the harmless prank. Cameron promises to really help him train for the obstacle run in order to make up for the joke he pulled.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET -- NEXT DAY -- MORNING

Come Monday, Chris starts serious training with Cameron. Cameron has him exerting all his energy into these sessions.

During these training sessions, Cameron makes it a point to make Chris miserable, but Chris doesn't realize the malicious intent at first.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT -- SAME DAY -- AFTERNOON

Cameron is playing ball with his friends, Chris excluded. He is telling them all the stupid stuff he is making Chris do to embarrass him and make running harder.

INT. DESIGN OFFICE -- DAY

Meanwhile at work, the deadline for the big deal Chris landed is quickly approaching. However, he is too distracted and worn out to realize the time crunch he is really in.

INT. CHRIS'S HOME -- EVENING

Emma calls up Chris and offers him a spot in a marathon the week after the mud run. He knows there is no way he can be in good enough shape to place at a marathon, but blinded by love, accepts.

INT. CHRIS'S HOME -- NIGHT -- EVENING

We are now at Chris's first design deadline. He starts to lose it. He is tired and just wants to tell EMMA the truth. Cameron pushes him to stay on track and finish what he has started. Worn out, Chris presses on.

INT. DESIGN OFFICE -- NEXT DAY -- AFTERNOON

At work the next day, Chris gets a call from his client asking if proofs of their design are almost ready. Chris finds himself extremely behind at work so has to pull an all-nighter in order to have something on the table for the client before he can be approved to put down a final product. The next morning Chris presents the draft of his design, but the client is not satisfied with it. He begins to feel more defeated.

EXT. MUD RUN -- SATURDAY -- AFTERNOON

It is now the day of the mud run. Chris has gotten in better shape but when he comes up to the race he did not realize it was an obstacle run. He can run on flat ground but hasn't properly prepared for this. Looking defeated Cameron approaches him. H is also running the course.

Emma and a small group of her friends arrive and meet up with the two of them. They participate in small talk prior to activities beginning. Cameron begins hitting on Emma, who seems to be laughing at every joke he cracks, even when Chris is the source of the joke.

The run is ready to start. Chris does fine keeping up at first but soon stumbles when he gets to the harder obstacles. When they hit the slippery climbing wall, which ends in a pile of mud, Chris falls behind. He tells Emma to go on and he will catch up. Cameron presses on with the group, making fun of Chris for falling behind.

Cut to scene of group having a blast in the obstacle course, pulling each other through the mud, and joking around as they sling water and dirt into the air.

Cameron is cracking jokes left in right, winning the hearts of Emma's friend group as he shows off. Cameron seems to develop a crush on Emma. However, though Emma smiles at his jokes, she recognizes his arrogance.

Chris is still struggling and is far behind the group. The group goes through the final obstacle and crosses the finish line together. They all hang out cheering on the competitors while waiting for Chris to cross. He comes through about 10 minutes behind the others. They all greet him and give him a hard time for being so far behind.

Chris makes up a story saying he got stuck helping a few people struggling to get through the mud crawl. Cameron

fires back with a response that counters his story. Emma chimes in and says it was all in good fun and everyone did great.

They all hang out for a while and throw back a few drinks. Chris notices Cameron flirting with Emma, so pulls her away. Chris attempts to keep his distance from Cameron for the rest of the social. The group dissipates and Chris and Emma are left to talk for a bit. She says "Obstacles aren't everyone's thing, don't beat yourself up, you did great." She goes on to say how she was really looking forward to running the marathon with him next week. They hang out a little longer before saying their goodbyes.

INT. CAR -- EARLY EVENING

Emma and her friends leave. Chris and Cameron are left together. There is obvious tension between Chris and Cameron. Cameron tries to talk himself out of it but Chris is unresponsive. They are silent in the car. To make matters worse Chris is getting text messages from work the whole way home asking about his designs.

When Cameron drops Chris off at home, before getting out of the car, he lets loose on Cameron. He yells at him for always undermining everything he does and trying to sabotage his attempts at making relationships. Cameron fires back highlighting Chris's incompetence.

Chris is on edge; he is tired of Cameron always stealing the spotlight. Chris starts to stick up for himself. Cameron keeps going, "You are too big of a pushover. You're never going to win because you let everyone else take what can be yours." They banter some more. Cameron says, "If you want the girl, then grow a pair and go get her, but I'm not backing off."

Chris is taken aback by his friend's response. He stands there for a minute before responding, thinking about the truth behind his friends' statement. "Then may the best man win."

The car-fighting scene ends with Chris firmly closing the car door, but it is not quite a slam, more of a put together, assertive way of exiting, he walking off confidently. Cameron's car screeches away.

INT/EXT - NEXT FEW DAYS

Cameron is at the bar hanging out with Emma, they seem to be hitting it off but it is obvious that Emma isn't as into it as Cameron is.

Chris is also hanging out with Emma over the next few days. They are going on short runs together and just having fun. You can tell there is a spark between the two of them. Their relationship comes across as more sincere.

However, during one of Cameron and Emma's outing, Chris stumbles upon them. Watching them interact through the window of a bar, he suddenly becomes discouraged.

INT/EXT -- CONTINUED

We enter a cliché character montage where Chris thinks about everything. He sits at his desk drawing design after design for work, crinkling each one up and throwing it in the trash. He thinks about the girl he's falling for. He thinks about all the things he said to his friend, and his friend said to him.

Cameron is having fun with Emma but realizes she's not that into him. He decides he wants to reach out to Chris and make amends. He leaves a few phone calls but Chris won't pick up. "Buddy, come on this is stupid, just pick up your phone. Let's go to the bars or play some basketball..."

Cut to another montage. This one of Cameron evaluating his friendship with Chris over the past few years and all the times he may have been too rough on him. Here we see clips of flashbacks/memories, a moment of self-reflection before his complete change of heart.

It has been a couple days since the friends have talked. We see scenes of them both at work trying to catch back up with everything. Chris's spirit is crushed. He is struggling for the first time at keeping his head above water at work. He seems to be in a creative block and has a deadline to meet in three days.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT -- LATE AFTERNOON

It is Wednesday, three days before the race and deadline. After work, Chris takes a slow walk to the basketball court he and his friends usually played at during the week. From the opposite direction the Cameron is walking towards the same place.

Chris arrives first and starts shooting baskets, missing most of them. Cameron walks in behind him. The two friends talk out their fight and workout the problems they have had, both admitting their faults and both promising to ease up. Chris says he wants to give up on Emma and doesn't know what to do about work. Here we see Cameron turn in character. He sincerely wants to help his friend and together they figure out how to tackle both issues.

EXT. NEXT DAY --

The two train for the rest of the week, in between the working days. We see marked progression in Chris's athletic efforts, as well as a new energy at work.

INT. FRIDAY NIGHT -- DESIGN OFFICE

After pulling an all-nighter on a final design, he has a finished product to give to his client. He shows them the design first thing Saturday morning and they love it. They sign off on the deal and he sells his work. Scene ends with Chris checking his watch and rushing to the race.

Cameron is waiting outside the office. Chris runs out expressing his excitement on selling the deal and the two head to the race. He gets there just in time to take his mark next to Emma. The whistle blows and the runners dash off.

After 25 miles of running Emma comes to a stop. Chris realizes she is no longer next to him so stops and looks back. He watches as she stands there and the other participants zoom by them. He slowly approaches Emma, and asks, "What are you doing?"

She stands there and says, "Cameron told me the whole story...you don't have to pretend to be this guy..." He looks behind in the distance at his friend, giving him a nod of appreciation for helping clear the air. He apologizes to Emma for lying.

He says, "Well should we finish this thing." She says yes, but she wants to walk the last mile. They take their time strolling, hand-in-hand, across the finish line. When they reach the end he goes in for the kiss. Camera slowly fades out as the sidelines let out a cheer.



In the end we see that Chris loses the race but gets the girl, and Cameron finds redemption by finally doing something in the best interest of his friend.