

“POSITIVE AGING IN HAPPY VALLEY”

SYNOPSIS by Jeff McMahon

Logline: *When a widowed survivor of a marriage of convenience moves into a retirement facility and encounters the former spirited love of her life, her resolve to finally tie the knot with him is tested by his irrational antics.*

Circumstances compel seventy-something widow, Cynthia Baker, to take up residence in an upmarket retirement facility where she befriends the ebullient Abe Sebastian. But their budding relationship is tested when, at a wake for one of the residents, Cynthia encounters a ghost from her past – Denzel McCallum. Not good karma – with no alternative accommodation, there’s a predicament.

Irked by the turn of events, Abe suspects they have serious history. But when Cynthia tries to ease back into Denzel’s life, he remains at arm’s length.

Seeking comfort from daughter Hermione – and a wine or two – Cynthia reveals her whirlwind romance with Denzel in the 1970s, and her eventual marriage of convenience to another she didn’t love. Damn it! She’s unable to ignore her need to win back her true love.

Convincing Denzel to resurrect their youthful rebellious times, they eventually consummate their renewed accord. Freshening up afterwards in Denzel’s bathroom, Cynthia notices a post-it reminder: ‘*take meds*’. Intrigued, she delves into his medicine cabinet to find an array of curious medications.

They commit to dinner that night. Cynthia waits for her date – but he’s a no-show. Assuming it’s a case of crossed wires, she fronts the restaurant, expecting to find Denzel there, but instead encounters Abe who suspects it’s more a case of “wires no longer connected” – it’s not the first time Denzel’s commitments have gone awry. Question marks are raised.

Serious soul searching ensues, and Cynthia declares to Denzel that, regardless of his shortcomings, he is the man she loves, always has been, always will be. Striking a nerve, Denzel’s true feelings for her are re-kindled.

Unfortunately, not only does Denzel’s mind wander, so too does his driving, and following a raft of traffic violations en route to golf, he ends up in a police cell, awaiting bail.

Cynthia now has real concerns about Denzel’s mental disposition. She approaches resident physician, Doc Martini, who concedes the symptoms indicate dementia, but only Denzel’s immediate family can be privy to his medical info. Only one course of action then! Revisiting the site where, in 1972, Cynthia rebuffed Denzel’s marriage proposal, she now proposes to him. His broken heart massaged, he accepts.

However, following a misadventure with Abe in preparation for the wedding, Denzel again, along with his pal, finds himself in lock-up. Cynthia pleads their case; the miscreants are released to attend to an important agenda ...

And while the wedding goes as well as could be expected, with the newlyweds set to embark on a honeymoon cruise, a big-time relapse sees Denzel losing it completely, the vessel sailing without them ...

Thus is their Kismet, Cynthia and Denzel seeing their days out together, until death do they part, in the Happy Valley Retreat for Positive Aging.

~~~