



RUN

Episode 1 - 5

Run is one of HBO's new shows created by Vicky Jones, and one that I am yet to fully immerse myself into. Aside from the generic beginning of a bored housewife suffering a midlife crisis, I found myself getting uncomfortably impatient with the not so prominent growth and the unraveling of the first two episodes. However, by the third and fourth... I found myself saying one more, maybe just one more.

Run is centered on the two main characters of the show; Ruby (Merritt Wever) and Dave (Domhnall Gleeson). They unexpectedly embark on their life long path of running away together, to explore America in a week. Once the exploration is over, they will decide to either return to their normal life or start a new life together. To do this, they both need to respond RUN via text to each other.

On the surface, this doesn't sound like a bad idea at all. Quite frankly, it sounds like a spontaneous on-the-spot vacation to unleash every tension or friction in your life. This of course becomes a problem, if you literally take off on the spot without informing loved ones, or if you have unfinished business that can't wait a whole week.

This is the case of Ruby and Dave. Ruby takes off on the spot, despite needing to take the kids to kung fu lessons, and without informing her husband of her personal retreat for clarity. Dave, on the other hand, is running away from a failed speaking tour, after being informed that his message led to the suicide of a listener. Another problem? The fact that his PA, Fiona (Archie Panjabi) wasn't taken into consideration while telling the crowd to sod off, jetting off to start a new life while leaving her to clean up his mess, and being upset with her stalking him to finish what he started.

Anyway, they make it to their first destination, Chicago. Luxury hotel booked, fancy clothing purchased, Fiona is adamant about getting Billy back on track but instead she is met with a goodbye compensation for her time, \$10,000. Nope, Fiona isn't having that and if she must, then a good retirement package will be soothing.

Here comes the chase of Ruby trying to constantly lie to her husband, Laurence (Rich Sommer) on the phone, discovering he has frozen all her accounts, changed the voicemail message to inform the public of her running away, replacing her responsibilities by hiring a nanny, and her son basically moving on with life without missing her. At the same time, she can't seem to control herself and her constant need to physically express and show just how incredibly horny she is for Billy. So horny, that as Billy relates the story of the man who committed suicide based on his speech guidance, she increasingly projects the horniness and is eventually quenched and drenched into ecstasy by an all-night romp with Billy. But not too fast for Fiona to stalk them up to their hotel room, and get an audio recording of the said romp. Must have been incredibly exhausting for Fiona to standby and wait until it was over...maybe she didn't, hopefully, she got a good rub out of it as well.

Back to the story. Ruby and Billy, horn bag their way to the next train ride to their next destination, Los Angeles. This journey is cut short as Fiona does make her way to the train, reveals her true identity (to Ruby), threatens both of them individually to expose their truth, and eventually jumps off the train with the bag of money, which Ruby foolishly hands her due to fear of her infidelity being exposed to her husband. This leads to a successful chase that leads to the death of Fiona. Oh, there was also the careless error of every individual not noticing a fourth person in the house that Fiona was killed and now a witness to the murder.

As Ruby and Dave luckily get a ride by a taxidermist (played by Phoebe Waller-Bridge) back to the train station in the middle of nowhere, Ruby discovers that she made a dumb mistake, she left her cellphone at the crime scene.

That's basically RUN at the moment. Just like the name, I have been tempted to run far away from the show, into something else where characters are not easily predictable or making cringy decisions or honestly, lacking some good amount of chemistry.

Run is like a bag of mixed emotions constantly being filled with lack of planning, unnecessary pressure, failed sexual reunion, and more to come as the show progresses. While I have weirdly enjoyed how each actor has held on strong to what's required of their character, I just can't wrap my mind around the lack of chemistry between the two main actors. I do hope I see more of Fiona via flashback and more of Laurence being a dark mastermind of some sort. I also won't be weirdly surprised if, along the road, it is revealed that Ruby has a dark and twisted fetish of being incredibly turned on by dark events, pain, or even murder. Perhaps that will explain the shagging that occurred with Billy at the hotel.

Until then, a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon it is, while I ponder the next direction of the show.