

CANCELLED



**My account of
The 2012 New York Marathon**

Cathie van Rooyen



Cancelled

My account of the 2012 New York Marathon

Cathie van Rooyen

This book is for sale at <http://leanpub.com/cancelled>

This version was published on 2013-11-04



This is a [Leanpub](#) book. Leanpub empowers authors and publishers with the Lean Publishing process. [Lean Publishing](#) is the act of publishing an in-progress ebook using lightweight tools and many iterations to get reader feedback, pivot until you have the right book and build traction once you do.

©2013 Cathie van Rooyen

Tweet This Book!

Please help Cathie van Rooyen by spreading the word about this book on [Twitter](#)!

The suggested hashtag for this book is [#cancelled](#).

Find out what other people are saying about the book by clicking on this link to search for this hashtag on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/search?q=#cancelled>

*This story is my story, but many people lost their lives,
homes and towns to Hurricane Sandy, their story may
never be told. To fellow runners, united in disappointment.
To Nic, unwavering in support.*

Contents

CHAPTER ONE	1
-----------------------	---

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The 2012 ING New York Marathon made history books, by being cancelled for the first time in the history of the race which first took place in 1970. Not even the tragic events of 9/11 saw the cancellation of this featured marathon. The marathon has become one of the world's most popular, with a huge field of participants. The first race had only 127 runners and the route was round Central Park. Nowadays with participants numbering over 40 000, the race weaves it's way through five boroughs of New York and ends in the famous park in New York City. The entry process was a whole lot easier in the early years. The entry fee was low and prizes consisted of inexpensive watches and recycled bowling trophies. Nowadays things are a little different. The huge demand on entries means that there is a 'non-guaranteed entry' process where people can take their chance on getting an entry out of thousands of entrants, if their name is selected. International runners, like myself, have the option of a guaranteed entry by using one of the accredited local tour operators, which means that the fee is really high and has some accommodation included. It doesn't deter people though, because tours are sold out very quickly as the demand for a place on this magnificent event increases. People from all over the world have this race on

their 'must-do' list. I was there making my own history my first time on American soil and my first international marathon. It was a dream come true, but like many dreams, the outcome changed. I didn't get to run through the streets of Brooklyn, hear the many bands and have crowds cheer me on. Instead I got to see a side of untamed nature that has no respect for a race.

In a way the history books are still surprised to see my name written down as 'marathon participant'. I too, wonder if it is true. My running story began grudgingly and after many failed attempts to get fit and many unused gym contracts, I still sometimes struggle to call myself a 'runner'. Six years of many races and much training and mileage are beginning to convince me otherwise, and to be able to take part in an international marathon is wonderful. My reluctance to exercise years ago was a standing joke with my husband, Nic, who is one of those naturally athletic types. On a lazy Sunday afternoon, I would announce that I was tired and was going to have a nap, and he would say that he was tired so he was going for a run. We would both do as we said and every so often I would feel that perhaps it's time to get exercising, but my attempts would crash very quickly. One of the turning points for my change in lifestyle was a milestone birthday and the realisation that I was not getting any younger.