

Defying Gravity – Drama

A successful, but lonely aerospace engineer finds love when he reconnects with his childhood sweetheart after an accident that forces him to explore a personal journey within.

LAWRENCE is a 31year old NASA aerospace engineer and graduate from MIT. On the outside he is very successful and enjoys his international crew and space exploration project at the Houston Texas Johnson Space Center while working on the future international space station. During a deadline to complete the testing for this project he has an accident and is forced to take a medical leave. This forces him to take some time off that leads him through a personal journey within that eventually reunites him with his childhood girlfriend PATRICIA that he left for college.

SYNOPSIS

Act 1 summary

LAWRENCE is a shy, nerdy academically inclined 6th grade boy who has dysfunctional parents and is always trying to please his father DONALD and mother, ELLEN. He has a close friendship with a pretty and kind girl next door PATRICIA that really cares about him and they play together whenever they can. His dad suffers from psychological trauma from the Vietnam War is often controlling over his actions with anger issues and drinking problems. When he spots Larry playing with Patricia he does not like it and accuses him of wasting his time when he needs to focus on his studies and therefore often yells at him. Larry is studying for the upcoming 6th grade science fair and who can help him but his best friend Patricia. They help each other on this project when she comes over to visit him but is scared off when his dad gets home and chastises him again for hanging out with the opposite sex. Larry feels pressure to win 1st place in the science fair and when he does he gives credit to Patricia for her creative ideas. They develop a close bond and friendship throughout their childhood. When he graduates high school valedictorian he promises her that he will stay in touch when he goes off to college. But he gets busy at MIT and in respect to his father's wishes he wants to make him proud and focuses on his studies. Soon their relationship between Larry and Patricia diminishes and they stop communication.

Fast forward 13 years later and Larry is shown working at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston on an international space exploration team. He has long forgotten about his childhood girlfriend and has made his parents proud. His dad passed away a few years ago and his Mom has continued to stay in touch with him. One night after work Larry gets in an accident going out with her co-worker friends. He has to wear a cast arm sling and is forced to take a medical leave. He goes to visit his Mom back home in small town Texas. Its then when his Mom encourages him to take therapy sessions with her therapist that helped her recover from depression from the abusive years with her husband. While there he runs into Patricia at Halloween night when she is treat or treating.

Act 2 summary

Larry agrees to go to therapy sessions after his Mom's recommendations. He discovers that he is suffering from repressed emotions also and realizes that it is important to his wellbeing. During this process he also realizes that he has denied himself being in love. He wants to take advantage of the coincidence running into his childhood sweetheart and decides to pursue her again. He tries dating at first but soon realizes that she is the one he wants to pursue. He tries getting her phone number from her Mom unsuccessfully. He only has a few weeks off of work so his time is limited. He decides to show up at her place of work where she teaches. She is not sure about meeting him again and explains that she is a

single Mom and that she has recovered not too long ago from a failed relationship. She learns about his NASA space project and thinks it is really cool so she decides to invite him as a guest speaker for her classroom. Meanwhile, Larry is back at his project catching up in anticipation of going back to work so and he is not sure if there will be any chance of getting to know Patricia again – until he receives the message that she wants him to come back and be a guest speaker at her class. He is surprised. When he gives the talk to the classroom the sparks start to fly again between them. They start to go on dates and the romance begins again. He also continues his therapy and gradually recognizes that he needs to overcome his fears from childhood of being in love. Finally, he is being called back to work in fear of being replaced if he does not return in time. Ultimately he has to decide what is more important – his job or his pursuit of true love for Patricia. He returns to work. She is sad and crying in disappointment again thinking he will not come back. He returns to work only to be frustrated that he is missing her. When he calls her back he finds out that she is at a teachers conference all week. He drives to the event and has a difficult time finding her among the crowds. Finally, he sees her in a big event speaker room and dares to take the microphone from the speaker. He declares in front of the large audience of teachers that he truly loves her and would do anything on Earth or in the galaxy to be with her. He also tells the audience that although academics and achievements are important, that love is the most important. He confesses to the audience that he realized that there was an ugly Frankenstein inside him that wouldn't let him love. The audience cheers him. She cries and the two meet in the center of the aisle and embrace.

Act 3 summary

When he receives a phone call from his boss that he has been fired he is in shock.

Patricia has a plan. She arranges a school field trip to NASA and has the kids hold up a sign that they love Larry and is the best aerospace engineer ever. His boss is impressed and realizes that it was love that was his most important mission and gives him his job back.

The final scene shows the test launch of the space station and Lawrence going up into the atmosphere. He radios back down to the space station where Patricia with his other crew mates at NASA. He asks if they can see the constellation of stars in the sky that he sees. (same one he and Patricia saw together in their youth) She acknowledges yes I can and the stars twinkle. He says I love you sweetheart, whether near or far I will always be with you.

Steven Brooks Carpenter

Writers Guild Association member

4548 High Rock Terrace, Marietta, Georgia, 30066 USA

Ph: 404-825-2151 email: sbrookscarpenter@gmail.com