

Laws of Nature

screenplay

by

Sam Huntington & Robert Lawson

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developed with

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Story by Robert Lawson

based on his short story collection
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IN BLACK: we hear the voice of an 11 YEAR OLD GIRL.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fables begin with "Once upon a time" -- and that seems like a good place to start this story off.

FADE IN ON:

1 INT. PERFORMA-LAB, WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN - NIGHT (LATE SUMMER)

A SPOTLIGHT catches KATERINA VERLOREN (33) on stage, dressed like Katharine Hepburn in drag, basking in the enthusiastic APPLAUSE coming from the HIPSTER AUDIENCE filling the 100 seat cabaret.

KAT

(perfect Hepburn)

I mean you really think men and women are suited for one another? Maybe they should live next door and only visit now and then.

Audience LAUGHS.

KAT (CONT'D)

If that.

Audience APPLAUDS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Once upon a time there were two people. They lived in Brooklyn, where dreams come true.

Kat discreetly WINKS, sending out a literal SHOCK WAVE that floats into the AUDIENCE...

GO TO: NICK REYNOLDS (mid-30s), recording the performance on his iPhone. The WINK LANDS ON HIM, bathing him in a shimmering AURA before it dissipates. His eyes twinkle.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Like everybody else, they were just trying to make ends meet, and make cool stuff at the same time.

KAT

(to audience)

No, really I have a lovely man.

Nick smiles. On stage, Kat stands.

KAT (CONT'D)
A lovely man who has no issues
being with a lovely man.

Kat 'adjusts' her crotch. More applause.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The definitions of "cool stuff"
are, of course, infinite.

BIG OVATION. Nick stops the recording, adding to the
applause.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
They'd been together for a while,
and they loved each other very
much.

Nick and Kat's eyes meet - at this moment, no one else
exists.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Anyway, so I've been told.

2 EXT. ALLEYWAY OUTSIDE PERFORMA-LAB - FOLLOWING

Nick & Kat burst out of the stage door, drunk and laughing.
It's POURING RAIN. Kat's in street clothes now, stylish
vintage with a personal flair.

Nick smiles as Kat jumps in a large PUDDLE. The resulting
SPLASH creating a disco ball effect on the facades of the
surrounding buildings.

Kat stops, beaming, breathing, ALIVE. Nick smiles back, then
looks up into the rain.

NICK
I'm soaked!

KAT
That will not do.

AN UMBRELLA FLOATS IN ON THE WIND. Kat snags it, and -
without skipping a beat - holds it over the two of them.

They kiss, deeply. THUNDER, LIGHTENING! They squeal, dash
down the alley.

When they get to the end of the alleyway, a CONFUSED DRENCHED
MAN looking up at the sky appears. Again, without hesitation,
Kat hands him the umbrella --

Just as A CAB PULLS UP TO THE CURB. Without pausing, Nick & Kat tumble into the back seat and the cab takes off.

3 INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Nick & Kat continue the kiss.

We see through the windshield: ahead of them, ALL OF THE CARS ON THE AVENUE TURN OFF, leaving the Avenue empty of traffic.

CABBIE
Yer lucky night.

4 EXT. TAXI - SAME

Rising crane shot of the Taxi, alone on the Avenue. Ahead, ALL OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS TURN GREEN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
I always imagine them being very happy. And I think that kind of happiness can maybe actually bend the fabric of the universe.

5 INT. NICK & KAT'S APARTMENT, BROOKLYN - NIGHT

WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF TWO PEOPLE MAKING LOVE as we move through the living room/kitchen of a small 1 bedroom apartment in Bushwick.

BUT EVERYTHING'S DRIFTING AROUND, LIKE WE'RE IN ZERO-G. Lamps lightly bump into floating throw pillows, pots & pans, pens & pencils.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
(sigh)
It must have been very romantic.

Heading for an open bedroom door, we drift through a flock of books, handwritten pages. A pillow, a few articles of clothing, a SMALL BONSAI TREE glides out of the open door.

We pause at the bedroom door looking in on Nick & Kat as they have drunk but romantic sex. Clothes, sheets, underwear, socks, knick knacks, you name it lazily circle the couple like a surreal solar system.

Nick starts to come.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 Sex has got to be very strange.
 Then again, that doesn't seem to
 discourage people.

With the soundtrack of Nick coming, and Kat approaching
 climax, WE CUT TO:

6 GRAPHIC ANIMATION - INSIDE KAT'S UTERUS

Interior of uterus with NuvaRing birth control device.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 Okay, since this is a story, I know
 it needs certain things, and it may
 not be totally obvious here? so you
 need to pay attention.

Near the NuvaRing, a flashing neon sign appears that reads:

98% EFFECTIVE!!

The whole place looks like a mash up of *Blade Runner* and *Star Wars* when Luke Skywalker was dodging artillery fire, heading for the core of the Death Star.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 This Is The Inciting Incident.

As thousands of sperm die left and right, ONE VALIANT SPERM
 struggles past the defenses, heading for a pulsing, beckoning
 EGG.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 When you think about it, it's
 totally random who gets to be a
 baby. And it's kind of sad, I
 guess, that there are all these
 other maybe-babies that just get
 zapped.

A particularly devastating massacre of sperm. Still the
 Valiant One presses on.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 I mean, there's sooooo much we
 can't control.

7 BACK TO SCENE

Nick and Kat, post coitus, FLOATING BACK DOWN to the bed.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Like who we love, and why we love them. Some say it's fate. Some say it's just chemicals or instinct. I say it's scary. -- But I think kind of exciting too. I mean all that mystery.

Nick & Kat land on the bed.

FADE TO BLACK.

IN BLACK, TITLE:

LAWS OF NATURE

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fate is more romantic, so I'll stick with that. But whatever it is or was -- in this moment, for Nicholas & Katerina, life was kinda perfect.

- CONTINUES -