GO AROUND

Comedy Drama Treatment by

Kevin Lewis

Logline:

A wayward ‘80s college grad struggles to follow in her deceased father’s footsteps to become a military pilot in a time when female pilots are almost nonexistent.

10 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609
(949) 554-8009
mail@kevinlewis.com

CENTRAL CHARACTERS

ANDREA (ANDI) REYNOLDS (22): Fit as an army soldier, if only so disciplined. She was destined to be an Air Force pilot like her father. But after her father died in a training accident, she dropped out of ROTC and formed a resentment for the Air Force. She also carries the responsibility of looking after her much younger sister since her mother's withdrawal after her husband's death. Andi reluctantly participates in a civilian cadet flight-training program that could restore her path to the skies.

KAREN JOHNSON (MID 30s): An Air Force captain, pilot, and commander of Andi's cadet program. We could mistakenly confuse her for the antagonist because of the way she pushes Andi. But her desire for Andi to succeed as a female officer and pilot has her being Andi's hidden ally.

RICK DANNON (MID 20s): An Air Force second lieutenant, fighter pilot, and Andi's flight instructor. That is until their undeniable romance threatens his career.

HEATHER REYNOLDS (10): Heather's younger sister. She's playful but mature. Maybe too mature. She often seems to be the "adult" in the family, but Andi feels responsible for her and has a hard time plotting a career that could separate them.

BARBARA REYNOLDS (40s): Andi's formerly perfect mother. But losing her husband at such a young age has caused her to regress, placing the parental burden for Heather on Andi.

PAUL HALVORSEN (OLDER 50s): A USAF brigadier general, close family friend and best friend of Andi's deceased father. He founds a civilian cadet flight-training program for Andi, but she resents him for the flight-training accident that killed her father.

SHARON (22): Andi's best friend and the "mom" in Andi's peer group.

FRIENDS: Andi's friends are regularly present throughout. They are tight-knit and funny but unwittingly enable Andi to revert back to a safe and comfortable life in her cozy beach town. Ironically, the friend who gives Andi the most meaningful advice is a ventriloquist puppet.

SYNOPSIS

Hampton Beach, Summer 1980. ANDI REYNOLDS (22) is a “fly-girl” currently stuck in an emotional holding pattern. Once a promising Air Force ROTC cadet, Andi dropped out after her father, a legendary pilot, died in a military crash. Now, she spends her days lifeguarding on the New Hampshire coast and her nights at “The Q,” drinking with her eccentric boardwalk friends—including a wannabe ventriloquist who dispenses advice through a puppet.

At home, the flight path is even more turbulent. Andi’s mother is drowning in a haze of depression, leaving Andi to raise her mature-beyond-her-years sister, Heather. When family friend General Halvorsen offers Andi “one last shot”—a spot in a specialized civilian cadet flight training program—Andi reluctantly agrees to return to the cockpit.

At the base, Andi clashes with the iron-willed Captain Karen Johnson, a woman fighting her own battles in a male-dominated Air Force. While Andi finds a romantic spark with her instructor, Lieutenant Rick Dannon, her progress is derailed when she uncovers a shattering secret: her “hero” father was having an affair with Captain Johnson.

Betrayed and broken, Andi quits the program and spirals into a public meltdown that threatens to alienate her friends and family. But through a raw reconciliation with her mother and a hard-earned respect for her mentor, Andi realizes that a “go around” for a second attempt isn’t a sign of failure—it’s the mark of a pilot. Andi must shed her baggage to reclaim her wings, ultimately proving she’s more than just her father’s daughter as she earns her seat in the cockpit of a C-5 Galaxy.

FADE IN:

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH AIRPORT - MORNING

The summer of 1980 begins at a seaside airstrip. A Cessna 150, piloted by ANDREA (ANDI) REYNOLDS (22), prepares for takeoff.

INT. CESSNA 150 - MORNING

Andi, wearing aviators and chewing bubble gum, abruptly stops to let a group of seagulls fight over a hamburger wrapper on the taxiway. Once they clear, she pops a bubble and continues.

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH AIRPORT - MORNING

The Cessna taxis onto the runway, picking up speed.

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH SKIES - MORNING

Andi flies low over the New Hampshire coastline.

INT. CESSNA 150 - MORNING

As Andi approaches the water, the beach and its thousands of beachgoers are to her right. She looks somberly at the empty passenger seat next to her.

FLASHBACK - INT. CESSNA 150 - (7 YEARS AGO)

A younger Andi (15) is coached through a “slow flight” procedure by her father, MATT REYNOLDS (LATE 30s), a legendary USAF pilot. He is patient and encouraging.

INT. CESSNA 150 - MORNING (BACK TO PRESENT)

Andi mimics her father’s instructions, pulling back on the throttle and pitching the nose up into a perfect slow flight.

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH SKIES - MORNING

The Cessna tows a banner: “HAMPTON BEACH FIREWORKS WED. NIGHT AT THE SEASHELL.”

INT. CESSNA 150 - LATER

On final approach, Andi is teased over the radio by another pilot for flying dangerously low. She smirks, brushing it off with a joke before sticking a perfect landing.

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH AIRPORT - AVIATION CENTER - MORNING

Andi ties down the plane for the last time. An attendant mentions how much her father loved this Cessna. Andi stares at it quietly, telling him to make sure it ends up in good hands.

LATER

Andi calls home from a payphone. Her sister, HEATHER (10), answers. She reveals their mother is still in bed crying. Andi can't give Heather a ride to a pool party because she has to head straight to her lifeguarding shift.

INT. ANDI'S CAR - DAY

The car's a piece of shit...but the stereo's great, and Andi's cranking a 1980 pop song. But beach traffic brings her to a standstill. She watches a low-flying military jumbo jet as it flies overhead.

INT. LIFEGUARD CHAIR - DAY

Andi watches the water. George stops by to chat, desperately trying to impress her. When teenagers nearby play a dance track, Andi grooves in her chair. George tries to join in but has zero rhythm.

INT. LIFEGUARD HOUSE - LATER

Andi rushes in late. Her supervisor warns her not to mess up her good gig. She strips down to her swimsuit, ignoring GEORGE (25), a fellow guard who clearly has a crush on her.

EXT. FRY-TASTIC DOUGH - DAY

At a fried dough concession on the boardwalk, Andi hangs out with her crew: the "mom" of the group SHARON (22), her flirtatious brother DOUG (19), and CHUCK (22), a wannabe ventriloquist with his sarcastic PUPPET BOB.

When Andi watches another jumbo jet fly overhead, Sharon tells her she’s in a rut and needs to start thinking about a “real” job. Andi snaps back, hurt by the reminder of her “pissed away dream.”

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - EVENING

A nice family home, but it looks a bit unkempt. Andi walks to the patio slider and sees her mother, BARBARA (40s), out on the patio, alone smoking a cigarette. She tells Andi to get McDonald’s for dinner. Andi is frustrated by her mother’s withdrawal and makes dinner for her sister. The doorbell rings. It’s PAUL HALVORSEN (Uncle Paul), a USAF brigadier general. He offers Andi a spot in a new civilian-cadet flight training program. It’s a “last shot” at flying heavies. Andi is bitter, accusing him of offering it only because of her father’s death. He gives her until Friday to decide.

INT. THE Q - NIGHT

The local beach-worker party house is jumping. Andi and Sharon dance. George tries to win Andi over by playing her favorite dance song, but it's quickly changed to a rock song everyone loves and sings to. Andi laughs and stays close to Sharon.

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - NIGHT

Andi finds Barbara asleep in a chair. She sits with Heather to watch a movie. Heather comments that she hopes Andi accepts Halvorsen’s offer. Andi spots a small F-16 statue on a table and makes her decision.

INT. GENERAL HALVORSEN’S OFFICE - DAY

Andi arrives in frayed shorts and a concert tee. Halvorsen is thrilled she’s joining the cadet program.

INT. KAREN’S OFFICE - DAY

Halvorsen introduces Andi to CAPTAIN KAREN JOHNSON (30ish), the program commander. Karen is unimpressed by Andi’s attire and attitude. Andi notices a photo of her father on Karen’s shelf. Karen assigns her a mountain of manuals to memorize for Monday. If she makes it through the first week, she can wear her latest ROTC rank.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Andi meets the other cadets: the kiss-up DANIELS, the nerdy WELKER, and the sexist jerk BRAD HICKS. Hicks asks if she's here for "stewardess training." Andi shuts him down with a sharp comeback.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

LIEUTENANT RICK DANNON (mid 20s) eavesdrops on the exchange, chuckling.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Rick enters with drill-sergeant intensity. He grills the men on technical specs -- they fail. Andi answers every question perfectly. Rick orders Hicks to polish Andi's scuffed boots. Rick leaves deliberately with Andi.

EXT. PEASE AFB TAXIWAY - DAY

Andi and Rick prepare for her first military flight in a T-41.

INT. T-41 - DAY

In the air, the tension thaws. They flirt while discussing her father and sister. Rick is impressed by her "natural touch" at the controls.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN SKIES - DAY

Andi performs perfect aileron rolls.

INT. T-41 - DAY

Seeking to impress Rick further, Andi takes a routine power-off stall and intentionally kicks the plane into a dangerous spin.

EXT. HANGER TIE-DOWN AREA - LATER

Rick is livid. He gets in Andi's face, screaming that she must never deviate from an instructor's command. Andi is shaken.

INT. KAREN'S OFFICE - LATER

Karen prepares to terminate Andi from the program. Andi pleads, finally admitting that she wants to finish the flying career her father couldn't. Karen softens and puts the papers away, but warns her it's her last chance.

EXT. FRY-TASTIC DOUGH - MORNING

Andi's friends tease her about her chemistry with Rick. Sharon suggests Andi apologize to Rick for the spin. Andi asks Sharon to make her a couple fried doughs.

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

Andi brings Rick stale fried dough as a peace offering. They share a laugh and a "cinnamon-sugar" moment. Karen passes by and clocks the unprofessional intimacy.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Rick lectures on aircraft refueling. Karen enters and grills Andi on the Air Force chain of command. Andi nails every answer. Rick gives her a "nice job" smile that Karen catches.

INT. KAREN'S OFFICE - LATER

Karen looks at a "Pease Flight Ops" photo album. Rick enters. Karen warns him to stay professional, noting that Andi has already had a bumpy road and doesn't need more trouble.

INT. T-41 - DAY

Rick has Andi flying "under the hood" for instrument training. He tries to be strict and professional, but alas he caves and lets her take off the hood to see a beautiful series of Maine islands.

INT. THE Q - NIGHT

Andi is fun drunk at a party, bragging about her aviation skills. Andi slow dances with George, but when he misreads the vibe and goes for a kiss, she shuts him down. Later, she has a heart-to-heart with Puppet Bob (and a passed-out Chuck) about whether her dad would be proud.

INT. SHARON’S CAR - NIGHT

Sharon and Andi sing “Feelings” at the top of their lungs while driving home. Sharon mentions she has a job interview in Boston. Andi is heartbroken at the thought of her friend leaving.

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - MORNING (SEVERAL DAYS LATER)

Andi finds a note: Barbara has ditched the girls to go to Maine for the weekend. Andi is furious. She wakes Heather up, telling her she’s coming to the base today and then to the beach while Andi lifeguards.

INT. FLIGHT OPERATIONS - DAY

Andi brings Heather into the base. Rick meets Heather, and they bond instantly over the F-16, acknowledging it was her father’s plane.

INT. KAREN'S OFFICE - DAY

Heather and Karen play draw poker with Rolo candies while the cadets are in class. Heather wins big.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Karen and Heather enter. In a formal presentation, Andi is awarded her reinstated ROTC rank. Rick pins the epaulets on her. The moment between them is electric and far too close.

EXT. LIFEGUARD CHAIR - DAY

Rick visits Andi at work in civilian clothes. He offers to take Heather to the boardwalk so Andi can focus on her shift.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Rick and Heather bond over ice cream, air hockey, and skee-ball.

EXT. LIFEGUARD HOUSE - DAY

Rick drops off Heather with Andi. She invites him to dinner.

EXT. MARSH-SIDE SEAFOOD - EVENING

Over steamed clams, Rick and Andi connect. Heather runs into a friend and is going to sleep over her house.

EXT. REYNOLDS HOME - PATIO - NIGHT

Andi and Rick sit on the fence overlooking the marsh. Rick tries to be the “officer” and resist, but Andi pulls him in. They make out.

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - LATER

Heavy petting ensues on the sofa. It gets intense, and Rick shuts it down, unsure if they should do this.

MONTAGE - ANDI AND RICK ADVANCE THEIR RELATIONSHIP

Mini-golf fun, outdoor dancing at the Seashell, a moonlit walk on the beach, and romantic photos in a boardwalk booth.

INT. C-5 COCKPIT - NIGHT (END OF MONTAGE)

Rick sneaks Andi into a C-5 Galaxy cockpit. They drink wine coolers and eat cheese three stories above the ground. Andi is in awe. They get romantic and make love in the pilot’s seat.

EXT. FRY-TASTIC DOUGH - NIGHT

Andi introduces Rick to the crew. Puppet Bob makes a crude joke about him “dating” Andi. Sharon warns Andi to keep it cool with Rick until she’s commissioned.

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Andi and Rick watch the Wednesday night fireworks, holding hands. But nearby, Hicks watches them with a vengeful smirk.

INT. RICK’S OFFICE - DAY

Karen confronts Rick. She knows about the fireworks. She removes him from the program immediately to protect his career and Andi’s.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Rick walks past the door without acknowledging Andi. Karen enters and announces she is taking over their flight training. Andi contemplates what all this means.

EXT. PEASE AFB HANGER - DAY

Karen is a brutal instructor, nitpicking Andi's preflight inspection with a clipboard.

INT. T-41 - DAY

Karen puts Andi through a harrowing emergency drill. Andi performs well, but Karen notes she missed a nearby airport for her simulated emergency landing. Andi fears what notes Karen is jotting on her clipboard only to see it's just a half-finished crossword puzzle.

EXT. BEACHSIDE CAFE - PATIO - MORNING

Andi vents to Rick about Karen "riding" her. Rick holds back what he believes to be the reason.

INT. KAREN'S OFFICE - DAY

Waiting for a debrief, Andi snoops in Karen's office. She finds the "Pease Flight Ops" photo album. Karen enters. Andi confronts her aggressively: "Were you fucking my father?" Andi pushes the album at her and storms out.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Andi tells Rick about Karen and her father. Rick admits that a lot of pilots knew. Andi is disgusted that Rick kept the secret. She tells him they are over and she is done with the program.

INT. THE Q - NIGHT

Andi is "bad drunk." She staggers into the party with a fifth of whiskey. Andi wrestles Puppet Bob away from Chuck. She uses the now-lifeless puppet to mock her lifeguard friends. Andi pours a full beer into Puppet Bob's mouth. Chuck is horrified as beer drips out of his puppet.

EXT. THE Q - NIGHT

Andi forces a sloppy, drunken kiss on George. When he rejects her because she's wasted, she screams at and belittles him in front of everyone. Her friends look at her with pity and disgust.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Andi sits with Doug, eating a greasy burger. She realizes the depth of her spiral and admits: "I'm such an asshole."

EXT. LIFEGUARD HOUSE - DAY

Andi's coworkers, including George, ignore her completely.

EXT. FRY-TASTIC DOUGH - EVENING

Andi tries to reconcile. But Chuck is mad because Puppet Bob is in the shop because of the beer damage. Sharon is cold and has a date to get to. Andi is totally alone.

EXT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Andi drinks alone. When a trashy guy harasses her, she throws her glass at him. The bouncer forcibly removes her.

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - LATE NIGHT

Andi finds the house dark. Heather has been locked out on the patio all night because Barbara was out drinking. When Barbara comes home, Andi and her have a screaming match. It culminates in Andi shouting the unthinkable: "It should have been you instead of Dad!!"

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - BARBARA'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Guilt-ridden, Andi enters her mother's room and spoons her. They reconcile. Barbara explains the complexity of her marriage and tells Andi that Karen lost her promotion because of the affair with Andi's father. She urges Andi to apologize to Karen and finish the program.

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Barbara has made breakfast for everyone like she used to. When the doorbell rings, Barbara tells Andi to answer it and then takes Heather for a walk. Andi goes to the door -- it's General Halvorsen.

EXT. REYNOLDS HOME - PATIO - MORNING

Halvorsen and Andi talk about the cadet program. Andi says she can't go back there after everything that happened. Halvorsen tells her: "Airplanes fly because they keep moving. If they stop, they fall out of the sky."

INT. REYNOLDS HOME - HEATHER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andi tells Heather she might be leaving soon for Air Force flight training. Heather tells her she'll be okay and that Mom is trying to be better.

INT. KAREN'S OFFICE - DAY

Standing at attention, Andi delivers a formal apology for her outburst. Karen accepts it and allows her back into the classroom.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

The guys tease Andi about her "disappearance." She teases back, and they laugh together. Karen then finishes a final lecture. She surprises the cadets by telling them that tomorrow they will wrap up their flight training by graduating from the T-41 propeller airplane and conducting one flight in a T-37 jet trainer. Andi isn't excited about the jet trainer because her father was supposed to take her up in his F-16 fighter jet.

EXT. LIFEGUARD CHAIR - DAY

Andi says goodbye to George. He tells her she was worth the heartbreak.

EXT. PEASE AFB HANGER - DAY

It's the final day. The cadets are supposed to fly the T-37 jet trainer. Karen takes everyone up but leaves Andi waiting until last.

EXT. T-37 - DAY

Andi approaches for her flight, but Karen tells her she's not flying the T-37. She points to a parked F-16 trainer and tells Andi: "I thought you'd like to take a drive in your dad's old plane."

EXT. F-16 - DAY

Andi is in the front seat, Karen in the back. They tear through the sky. The vibe is honest. When Andi asks, Karen admits she loved her father, but he chose his family. She explains she was hard on Andi because, as a woman in the Air Force, Andi has to be better than every man just to be considered equal.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

A formal commissioning ceremony. Halvorsen swears Andi in as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. Barbara, Heather, and Sharon watch proudly.

INT. FLIGHT OPERATIONS - DAY

Rick watches the ceremony from a window, smiling sadly before walking away.

INT. AVIATION CLASSROOM - DAY

Andi celebrates with Barbara, Heather, and Sharon. She sees Halvorsen exiting the ceremony.

INT. FLIGHT OPERATIONS - DAY

Andi catches up to Halvorsen and hugs him. She tells him: "Thank you, Uncle Paul."

INT. RICK'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Andi looks in but is disappointed that Rick is not there. The almost leaves him a note but decides not to.

EXT. FRY-TASTIC DOUGH - DAY

The end of summer. Andi gives Chuck a check to fix Puppet Bob and tells him to go to a comedy club and begin his career. Sharon is crying because Andi leaves tomorrow.

Andi promises that no matter where the Air Force sends her, this beach will always be home.

EXT. HAMPTON BEACH SKIES - DAY (TWO YEARS LATER)

A massive C-5 Galaxy flies an approach over the beach.

INT. C-5 - DAY

Andi is the co-pilot, now a first lieutenant -- disciplined and professional. She looks out at the beach and smiles as she flies over.

INT. FLIGHT OPERATIONS - DAY

Barbara and Heather wait with a “welcome home” poster.

INT. FLIGHT OPERATIONS - DAY

The crew enters. Andi hugs her family. Then, her eyes land on Rick. He is standing there, holding two fried doughs. They smile at each other.

FADE OUT.