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THE SCIENCE OF DEFYING GRAVITY

L. G. Reed

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Advance Praise for
The Science of Defying Gravity

The science of defying gravity by L. G. Reed is an awesome STEM book about an 11-year-old whose dream is to direct movies in space. I was so excited when I realized that this book used a real science fair project with tables and charts for the reader to see. This book is exciting, readable, and fun. *RD – Netgalley Reviewer*

This book stands out because it's about an 11-year-old girl who wants to go to Space Camp. Usually kids like that already love math and science, but Cassie doesn't! *MB - Netgalley Reviewer*

Very cool book. It was nice that my son loved it because I also found myself enjoying it. Always nice when a children's book is enjoyable by the parent as well as the intended audience. *JS - Netgalley Reviewer*

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Publisher's Note: This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are a product of the author's imagination. Locales and public names are sometimes used for atmospheric purposes. Any resemblance to actual people, living or dead, or to businesses, companies, events, institutions, or locales is completely coincidental.

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Publisher's Note:

The print versions of this book contain educational and humorous footnotes which help kids learn how to read text with citations. eBook formats do not support footnotes in the manner desired and so they have been embedded in the text with brackets. *[footnote]*

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To my friends and mentors in the Society of
Women Engineers (SWE) especially Fran
Stuart and Sue Parsons

*Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I
remember. Involve me and I learn.* -
Benjamin Franklin

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PART I – HOUSTON – WE’RE READY FOR LIFT OFF!



CHAPTER ONE

October 1—Lunch Time

Cassie's backpack slammed down on the lunch table next to her best friend, Wylie, who grabbed his can of soda to prevent it from spilling.

"Mrs. Taylor hates me!"

She opened her lunch bag and dumped a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich and a bag of pretzels onto the laminate lunchroom table.

Rain pounded the roof, so everyone was inside, and the noise in the room reverberated off the walls making it hard to concentrate.

"She doesn't hate you," Wylie said.

"Then why did I get in trouble this morning during the science lesson? I'm the only one she picks on." Cassie's cheeks still burned with embarrassment.

“Because you hadn’t done the homework and weren’t paying attention. As usual,” Wylie said. He had a school lunch. Pizza and a brick-red apple. Cassie had been paying attention; at least she’d tried to. But the capital letters and funny symbols Mrs. Taylor wrote on the board didn’t mean anything to her.

Thick peanut butter coated her mouth when she bit into her sandwich. Her words came out muffled. “Numbers are boring. Science is boring.”

Wylie shrugged. “You have to know science to go into space. That’s the way it is.”

Cassie Williams loved movies. Especially movies about space. When she was younger she’d watch *Star Trek* with her dad and older brother, Brad. She loved the opening words of each episode: “Space. The final frontier.” Then her younger brother, Mark, came along, and overnight Cassie was cast aside. At least that’s how it felt to her. Dad would take the boys to football games

and hockey tournaments and leave Cassie to do whatever it was girls were supposed to do.

Space was so big. There was plenty of room for everyone, plenty of room for dreams, for girls. Cassie's big dream was to be the first movie director in space. She wanted to make movies like her favorite, *Galaxy Quest*. That would get Dad's attention. Granted, she knew a few things stood in her way. She was only eleven, for one thing, although that was not what she considered her biggest obstacle.