

STAGGERWING
SHORT TREATMENT
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Logline:

What's more important for aviatrix Maggie Rockwell: to compete in the annual Bendix Trophy cross-country air race or marry her sweetheart?

Time & Place

Summer of 1936. The Great Depression. The California desert.

Principals:

Maggie Rockwell, 23: pilot, Hollywood stunt woman, college student

Fernando Martín, 25: pilot, polo player, college student

Luke Whitney, 41: pilot, flight instructor, businessman

Synopsis:

Maggie dreams of competing in the Bendix cross-country air race. Unfortunately, after a slew of crashes, women have been banned from competing in the race. There is talk, however, of perhaps letting women participate in this summer's race.

Luke Whitney, nearly twenty years her senior, is Maggie's flight instructor and would-be suitor. Maggie loves Luke, though not in a romantic way. They spend hours discussing what it will take to compete in the Bendix race. Luke wishes he had the money to sponsor the beautiful and gifted young pilot, but with the Depression in full swing he simply cannot afford it.

Fernando Martín, handsome and reserved, arrives on the scene by chance. An aeronautical engineer student, same as Maggie, he appears to be working his way through school by giving polo lessons and cleaning the stables. He lives very modestly in a small room in the barn.

Maggie and Fernando fall in love. Slowly at first, as they are both keenly competitive people, but then with gusto.

It eventually comes to light that Fernando is actually from an extremely wealthy Argentine family. And from a culture that idolizes women but subjugates them at the same time.

Maggie will have to decide: a career in aviation, or marriage to an incredibly handsome and spectacularly wealthy Argentine?

Theme & Tone:

Staggerwing is an action-packed love story that insists anything a man can do, a woman can do better.

A throwback to the Golden Age of Cinema with good-looking actors, beautiful sets, exquisite automobiles, and a whole fleet of gorgeous antique airplanes.