



# One Giant Leap

*Kay Simone*

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**One Giant Leap** Kay Simone

**Houston we have *so many* problems...**

Curtis "Launchpad" Larkin's career as an astronaut has had its share of ups and downs.

Alternately lauded as the single-handed savior of NASA and condemned as a reckless, hot-headed bully, Curt has been through the wringer of public opinion and come out on top. When he embarks on his final mission with NASA, Curt figures there's no curveball that life has left to throw him.

But when the role of spacecraft communicator is passed to a young engineer back in Houston who he's never met, Curt's mission takes on a new trajectory.

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***"CAPCOM to commander. Do you read?"***

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Patrick Harte's life is turned upside down when he's called to fill in at mission control, working directly under his hero, Curtis Larkin.

Falling for Curt is just a small step for Patrick -- but it's one giant leap to think that the astronaut could ever return his feelings.

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***"The more I talk to you, the more I know that we understand each other."***

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After Curt connects with Patrick from worlds away, he can't imagine life on earth without the other man... Despite the fact that he's never laid eyes on Patrick. And their problems won't stop once he's cleared for landing.

The bad-boy astronaut is no stranger to controversy -- but will the genuine and soft-spoken man of his dreams be able to keep up with the trouble Curt seems to stir everywhere he goes?

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***One Giant Leap is a slow burn m/m contemporary romance novel with a May-December theme, lots of humor, medium angst, medium heat, and a happily-ever-after ending -- plus a sexy bonus chapter.***

## One Giant Leap Details

Date : Published June 23rd 2016

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Author : Kay Simone

Format : Kindle Edition 440 pages

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# From Reader Review One Giant Leap for online ebook

## Chris, the Dalek King says

Wow. Just Wow. This was great. I've been kinda wanting this story for a long time. I love space and science and they whole astronaut things so I was a little sad to see that no one had written a book that takes place in contemporary times that deals with all that. Not that I'll ever turn a good scifi down, but there are a lot of really cool things that happen now (or even in the past) that would make really great stories. And I'm really glad someone finally did it. And did it so very very well. I loved how well researched this is (and man it must have taken a lot of time to research) but that it doesn't feel like we are getting constant info dumps. These characters live and breathe this stuff and you can totally tell from the way it is written. And thru them we get to experience it.

I love when authors trust readers to hang on for the ride like that.

The interview sections did feel a bit odd, since they where transcripts of something that really should be seen, but I found they grew on me. And even with the way it flashbaked, it didn't disrupt the story the way I thought it would.

I highly recommend this. And this author is gonna be getting more of my business in the near future, I can tell you that.

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## R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says

Refreshing set up and completely grounded in reality, this was a perfect romance amidst the background of showcasing great efforts towards propelling humanity forward.

Newly minted communications officer Patrick is in way over his head. He's overwhelmed with nerves and anxiety, and he can barely keep it together as he realizes that he's in charge of coordinating the entire mission. Lives are depending on his abilities and smarts, and it doesn't help at all that he's secretly had a crush on the head astronaut Curt Larkin since he was in the 5th grade!

Curt, brash and brilliant, slowly warms up to the new guy after quite the rocky start. Their uncanny connection, similar philosophy, and love of all things space, is the starting point to delve deeper and develop a friendship that quickly turns into something more in a matter of weeks. He's a bit surprised by this new development, but for once in his lonely life, he contemplates an actual future that has more meaning and appeal than working amongst the stars.

Thousands of miles separate Patrick and Curt, but somehow they connect over and over, and it is filled with silliness, humor, revelations, and intimacy. It was also equally another love story calling out to the wonders of space and its infinite possibilities in bettering and understanding our place in the universe. Impressive message indeed.

So overall, this was seriously sweet and wholly romantic, with a little sexy. It simply made me feel good and smile at such a fabulous love story.

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## **Tanu Gill says**

If I could, I would give this book a 100 stars instead of these meager 5, this book was that amazing for me. As I just told my friend Kavita, this book has effortlessly surpassed my devotion for my most favourite book of all time, Axel's Pup by Kim Dare. And that is not a light statement coming from me: as so many of my good friends on GR can attest, my love for that book has been incomparable, ever since I first read it. No other book has even come close to touching the spot I had allotted to that sweetheart.

But this story has actually gone a mile past that and is pulling me into indulging myself right now, after I am done reading the main book and the bonus chapter (the link to which was, blessedly, provided at the end of the story), by reading it again. And again. And again!

And so, I believe, that there are no words right now that will do my appreciation and love for Curt and Patrick and the temporary satisfaction of my ever-present curiosity and fascination with everything "space" any kind of justice. I saw so much of myself in this book that I was enchanted as I read it. It was as if someone cast a spell on me, making me feel as if there was a little part of me thrown in just to tease me, and I couldn't break it. Rather, I simply didn't want to. I doggedly kept my sleep at bay last night, which ended up making me go to work all bleary-eyed, hardly able to keep my eyes open, just because I indulged myself by reading about the bestest characters I could get to read about, in the bestest setting that I could ever have gotten.

I would like to thank my darling GR friends who dropped Beau and The Beast on my radar, which made me go look up the author's profile and then get a copy of this book. You guys are the best! :) xo

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## **Meags says**

### **5 Stars**

Well, I've just officially found my favourite M/M read of 2016. This story was absolutely wonderful.

Curtis "Launchpad" Larkin is a soon to be 40 year old world-famous (and infamous) astronaut, on his last mission in space, when his usual CAPCOM (the person back on earth who holds main communication

between flight control and the astronauts) falls ill and is replaced by 27 year old Patrick Harte. The two get off to a rocky start, but over the course of the mission they form a fast friendship and a great working relationship (that saves lives), and after some deep, soul-baring conversations, that occur late at night with no one around, the two slowly fall in love.

The whole idea of two people falling in love without having met face to face is a concept I enjoy very much and I feel was expertly executed here to perfection. Patrick has worshipped Curt from afar since he was 10 years old, when Curt was the youngest astronaut to ever go to space. Curt inspired Patrick's dreams of one day working for NASA, so once he's finally there in Houston's mission control centre, working in direct communication with Curt himself, Patrick finds it overwhelming but completely unsurprising when he develops very real feelings for the astronaut. Curt on the other hand has never really been lucky in love. He publically came out as bisexual some years ago, but had only had a string of meaningless flings with women since. Yet, from the beginning, Patrick seems to effortlessly understand things about Curt that Curt has kept under lock and key for years. For Curt, talking to Patrick is a pleasure that he's never experienced before with another person. Patrick gets him and he gets Patrick. The fact that Curt has never laid eyes on Patrick holds no power over his unwavering decision to fall head over heels for the younger man. After all, Curt is a man of action, so when he decides that Patrick is the one he wants there is no holding back.

I love, love, love a good slow burn romance and this one takes the cake! Witnessing these two falling for one another in such unique circumstances was an absolute joy. Sure, they didn't actually meet until around the 80% mark, but that had zero negative impact on my love for this story. The build up to the moment Curt lays eyes on Patrick for the first time and the scene that follows was quite possibly my favourite reading event of the year! I have no doubt that this will be one of those love stories I will continually return to read over and over for years to come and never tire of.

The space themed backdrop is also a completely awesome and original idea. It was well researched and surprisingly educational; so hats off to the author for doing the grunt work that enhanced the quality of this whole reading experience. The passion and reverence that Curt and Patrick (and the author) have for space exploration and the importance and impact such continued expeditions have on the future of the human race, is perfectly apparent and easily spilled out of the pages and infected the reader with the same wanderlust and excitement that the characters themselves were experiencing.

It wasn't all sunshine and rainbows, though. There were definitely moments when I questioned the author's decision to structure the story the way she did. I wasn't particularly sold on how the story jumped back and forth between present time on the space mission and back to showing segments of the TV interview broadcast that aired before the mission. I honestly didn't find much entertainment from the interview segments, but I still get why those moments, and the character information we gleaned from those moments, was vital to the overall development of the story.

What I did love unconditionally were the characters. Curt and Patrick were fantastic main leads and I could have easily followed their story for a good long while after I finished the final page and still been happy as Larry. Their story is one I enjoyed immensely and I won't be forgetting anytime soon. This was my first time reading Kay Simone's work and it most definitely will not be the last time.

If I had to compare this to other books I've read and loved, I'd say this was a cross between *The Martian* and *The Truth About Riley* (both fantastic reads if you haven't read either!).

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!**

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## Susan says

This was just adorable! I loved this.

I loved how the romance unfolded while Curt was in space and Patrick on earth. They fell in love by just talking to each other.

They do finally meet at 80% and it was wonderful and everything I'd hoped for.

I did have one major problem with this book and that was the interview stuff at the beginning of each new chapter for the first half of this book. I hated those parts and I skipped all of them.

But other than that I really loved it. It was super romantic.

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## Gigi says

Prepare for sugar-shock! This one is sweeter than honey. If you are looking for an impossibly sigh inducing romance, this one is for you. It is low, low, low on steam so don't expect any sexy time. I didn't miss it and I'm a BDSM loving, dirty talking, wall-sex enthusiast.

I was ready to give this one 5 stars but the last 10% pushed me into diabetic shock. It played on every cliché imaginable and didn't really match the mood of the rest of the book. It was a little *too* perfect, you know? But that is probably my mood.

I can absolutely recommend this book to my GR friends. Curt and Patrick are downright adorable.

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## ?? Michaele ♡?? says

4.5 Stars

This story, with its low heat and practically non-existent sex content, will not appeal to everyone. It did, however, hit all of my other buttons. It was touching, funny, sweet, romantic...and all built around a subject very near and dear to my heart (space exploration and NASA funding).

It was also very clever with its made-up celebrities (Neil deGlass Bryson, Bill McCann the Science Man) and television shows; I really liked how the book used footage and articles to weave the current state of affairs with previous events and helped build the blossoming relationship by giving us this complete picture of a very anti-hero Hero in Curtis. (I can't help it...I know how the cover and details described him but ISTG I kept getting flashes of Bruce Willis - as Harry Stamper in Armageddon - and it didn't bother me one bit because, yeah, that kind of anti-hero Hero.) (LOL there was even a mention of the Last Chance NASA Hero plot device a couple of times so I think the comparison is highly apropos!)

A big deal was made of the age-gap here, but I didn't find it that overwhelming. 13 years isn't much...IMHO it's more the life-experience divide - including how Curtis was Patrick's first crush at 10 & his inspiration for wanting to be an astronaut - that make this more interesting. Curtis is one of those Good Ole Boys that never seems to grow up and kinda acts like he's Patrick's age (or younger) most of the time anyway.

And the supporting characters? GAH! I loved each and every one of them, and this book wouldn't have been as good, as complete and touching, without them. I'd TOTALLY read a story about the lesbian astronaut couple...and I'm kinda wishing there was really a television special on Casey (KC? I listened to this so I have no idea how things are actually spelled). She seems like the kind of KICK ASS pilot & commander that more girls need for inspiration. In fact, ALL of the women characters were strong, competent, smart and holy shit do we need more of that in all facets of fiction.

Also, Greg Tremblay (once again) killed the narration. There were interviews and news bits where he imitated President Obama and I died. It was so well-done. All of the voices he provided for the audio book were perfection.

This whole book felt like a love letter to the space program in a way...and I adore that. Honestly, I can see myself listening to this time and again, it was that good.

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

\*I was provided with an e-ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review\*

It's not a secret that I enjoy Kay Simone's writing, as I've read and positively reviewed her previous works. I'm guessing that anyone who enjoyed her two previous books will probably enjoy this one, as well. That being said, there *are* a few things I took issue with.

Simone's technical prowess is still not up to par if she wants to compete in the top tier of m/m romance authors. She has issues with commas. Not as bad as a lot of authors I've seen in the last few years, but there are still important areas where commas aren't used and they're needed. Necessary. Then there were spots where I think malapropisms were the issue (hard to tell if she used the wrong word on her own or if it was some kind of well-meaning autocorrect fiasco). She kept using quotation marks around titles instead of italicizing. Yes, I know these technical issues are small for some readers, but they get under my skin and highlight the importance of an editor.

So that stuff can be remedied with an editor, and like I said, it needs to be if Simone wants to up her game. However, the technical aspects do not detract overmuch from the overall quality of the work itself. I enjoyed reading this, and it's probably a book I will eventually reread. It is not, however, one which I'm itching to revisit, and that means it's not going into my pile of romance favorites.

See, my favorite books are always ones where I can't stop thinking about them for a day or so (at least) after I finish reading them. It's not unusual for me to immediately flip back to the beginning and start rereading my favorite parts. The characters haunt me, and I see them as real people, even going so far as to imagine scenarios for them after the ending of the book. That didn't happen with this book because I couldn't invest myself that completely in the story. The romance, while sweet, was almost an afterthought, tacked on as a complement to interstellar rumination. Curt and Patrick are, on the surface, interesting characters, but Simone missed a chance to capitalize on their individual merits and really help the reader get to know them.



We were told Patrick felt this way, and Curt felt that way, but the slow build to a literary friendship with either man was just impossible for me, overshadowed as it was by the (admittedly) soft science of space exploration. They didn't appear to have all that much interaction before they began talking about being in love with each other, and that lent a feeling of unreality to the romance. I couldn't believe they were in love because I just didn't see it happen. I saw the beginnings of it, then we seemed to skip to the end. Then, after Curt was back on Earth, their "getting to know you" scenes were compromised by exhaustion and outside influences, so I still had very little opportunity to get to know them as a couple.

*But...* I find myself unable to give this less than four stars. Because while it could use a little more character development, the tone was great. This is where Simone's writing always confuses me. I really enjoy it, but I feel somewhat cheated. Perhaps this is just an unfortunate situation where Simone's writing will always strike wonderful chords with some readers while leaving me feeling slightly bereft. Whatever the case, she deserves some praise for the work she puts in. I may not be able to appreciate it all, but she certainly has talent.

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## **Lost in a Book says**

**Re-listen May 2018:** Still fanfuckingtastic.

### **Original audio thoughts**

I'm not sure why I didn't write a review for this back in January when I read it. \*smh\* However, I've been listening to the audio throughout the past few days while driving, cleaning, etc... and it's just a reminder how much I loved this book. The story was completely brought to life by Greg's narration. It's not often that I listen to an audio and feel like it's *better* than actually reading it, but this is one of those times. I just want to put Greg in my pocket and have him tell me stories all day. Not too creepy, right? \*sigh\*

**First read** Nothing written for some reason.

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## **Tess says**

### **4.5 stars**

Two guys falling in love before they even meet - so very romantic! Lovely slow burn and an HEA you can believe in. The astronaut theme was a fun twist (and somewhat unique) although be prepared to suspend your disbelief a little about the workings of a NASA mission. As the author herself indicates, this is more along the lines of a fairy tale!

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## **Daphne says**

When you know, you know. And Curtis and Patrick both knew - immediately and irreversibly - across the miles. I loved the sweetness and purity of the connection between these two in the most bizarre and unlikely of scenarios while Curtis was orbiting the Earth in a shuttle and Patrick was white knuckling his way through an unexpected promotion to CAPSCOM.

What I loved the most about this story:

Patrick's personality.

Curt's personality.

The secondary characters, including Amal, Carmen, K.C., Wyatt, Laxmi, Laxmi's parents, Allen, Pei - they were all so well developed and nuanced, without being preachy or obnoxious.

Patrick's illness and how it was handled

The phone calls

When they met for the first time

How they just folded into the relationship

No faux angst or game playing

The absolutely sweetness in how Curt and Patrick meshed together adjusting to gravity and real life

How physicality was used to compliment their relationship. In this book, it would have felt cheap to have some gratuitous sex scenes thrown in somewhere

The separate bonus chapter provided by the author with the gratuitous sex scene.

I can't think of anything that I didn't like. This was a completely unexpected happy surprise for me.

Read this one - it will warm the cockles of the most recalcitrant hearts.

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## **Simone says**

**Audiobook: \*\*\*4 Stars\*\*\***

**Story: \*\*\*2 Stars\*\*\* so beware of dissenting opinion ahead!**

*Holy Milky Way, this was loooong!*

Umm, the book, not the space mission. Although, listening to the audiobook felt like experiencing this mission in realtime...

I loved the characters, I really did. And by that I not only mean the main characters, even if Curt and Patrick were absolutely adorable, but also each and every side character (well, maybe except for Wolfe). I'm still not sure if I should buy their love story, since Curt and Patrick only met in person at roughly 80% of the book, but I can't deny that they were cute together and the ending was really sweet, too. But that's it pretty much.

The topic was interesting and something I never read about before and you can tell that the author did a great job with her research. The story itself, though, was way too wordy for me, too descriptive and sometimes too technical. And I would never tell somebody what and how they should feel, but the astronauts's pining for food and other things they were missing while being in space would have been believable for me if the mission would have lasted for at least half a year and not only three and a half weeks. The last thing that bugged me where the flashbacks. The TV interview scenes pulled me out of the story *every single time* and they took place quite often.

On the plus side, I got an extended version of the joy of listening to Greg Tremblay's voice and by doing an amazing job as always, he made me finish this story, which I would have given up on pretty soon otherwise.

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## **Manfred says**

After just reading this for the second time I can say that this book is as good for me now than it was when I wrote this review after my first read.

Very often I can relate to one of the main characters very well, maybe because the book is written from his POV, or because of the way the story is told.

In this book, I liked them both so much and it absolutely felt as if they were perfect for each other.

Even without (almost) any sex scenes and most of the communication taking place via intercom this was absolutely romantic and just amazing!

In order to get a 5-star rating, a book needs me absolutely hooked.

If I think about the MC even when I am not reading and wonder how the story will go on, that's definitely a clear sign. If I am getting really worried when noticing the book is slowly coming to an end, it means that it might even go to my all-time favorite shelf.

All of the above happened here.

In the beginning, the story needs a little getting used to it, or maybe more the writing style than the story. But once I adapted this was so much fun.

Patrick is a young engineer working for NASA. When the so-called "Capcom" (the person responsible for the communication with the space shuttle) suffers a stroke, he is called in to replace her, as he worked on the communication system for the "Hermes" mission.

So he gets to work with his astronaut hero "Curt" Curtis Larkin who leads the mission to ISS.

Through their conversations, they grow very close and without ever meeting each other they slowly fall in love.

Before meeting back on earth they have to overcome not only their personal doubts and insecurities but also health problems and a major incident on the shuttle that could easily turn the whole mission into a disaster.

The scenes where those two talk during their mission were absolutely wonderful. I absolutely enjoyed reading this story, I loved both MC a lot and even if the end is maybe a little too "sugarcoated" as another reviewer put it, this is easily one of the best books I have read so far this year!

Definitely 5 stars and yes this book is going on my all-time favorite shelf, no doubt about it...

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## **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

I HAVE to try this one!!

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~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

UPDATE:

After I wrote my original review, my OCD kicked in hard, and I forced myself to keep reading. I skimmed from 46 to 70 percent. Once Curt lands on earth, and he and Patrick finally meet, I became more invested in the outcome.

**The first time Curt and Patrick set eyes on each other is magical. It's a moment worthy of a Hollywood sunset and champagne.** I really did like that part and the getting-to-hold-you moments that followed.

**The ending here is pretty damn sweet and almost makes up for the drawn-out middle.**

As expected, save for kisses and a frantic hand job, there's no steam in this book. However, you can follow instructions at the end to download a free bonus chapter, which contains one sexy scene. I enjoyed the bonus chapter, but for the life of me I don't understand why sex in a romance novel is a "bonus." This chapter should have been included in the book.

**I think it was essential to see the MCs connecting on a physical level, since emotional attraction does not always translate to sexual chemistry (I speak from experience).**

Anyway, I'm torn on my rating. The majority of the story didn't fully keep my attention and there were a few editing issues, but I appreciate what the author was going for. Some of the descriptions of life in space were pretty cool.

**I'm going with a 2.5, rounded up because of the bonus chapter.**

ORIGINAL REVIEW:

~DNF @ 46%~

No rating.

I am clearly in the minority, but I couldn't take another minute with this book.

This story is SO BORING and so long. I actually fell asleep reading this last night, and the last time that happened I was in college and trudging through my economics textbook.

The narration is present-tense, third-person, and I have to admit it was handled fairly well, but it's still a narrative style I dislike.

There was so much filler: news reports in flashback (I think; mostly I was just confused); long conversations between secondary characters that went nowhere.

Reviews warned me that the steam is MIA. I can see why, considering one of the MCs is in space nearly the entire time, but knowing there would be zero payoff did nothing to make me want to continue.

The book begins with an epilogue of sorts, so there was no tension, and even halfway through the sexual chemistry was non-existent.

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