

## THE NATURE OF THINGS

Kelsey Tucker

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**Logline:** A ground-breaking top-secret gene therapy that promises to “take the gay away” is vigorously debated over a birthday dinner among a diverse group of friends holding widely different views, and some shocking secrets.

**Genre:** Drama, Sci-Fi

**Audience:** Adults, 20s-60s, LGBTQ, Science

**Themes:** Self-identity, self-worth, the moral high ground versus real life

**Synopsis:** Ava Stewart is a wealthy CMO of a pharmaceutical company that recently developed a top-secret designer gene therapy that targets the “gay gene.” The therapy makes it possible to not only suppress the homosexual impulse, but also promote heterosexual desire. Ava is conflicted about whether to release the drug, but she knows it will make billions. Her shareholders are expecting a status report and, given the failure of her last launch, some are threatening mutiny. It is under this heavy cloud that she is holding a birthday Seder dinner for her husband, Michael. Their guests include Ava’s pot smoking brother Pete, the liberal-thinking neighbors Alec and Debbie, church going friends Chris and Tara, and Ava’s best friend, Raina Tan, an openly gay lawyer who can be counted on for strong opinions. Conversation with this group is always lively, but no one expects the sharp turn things take when Michael gets a little drunk and spills the news about Ava’s new gene therapy, about to begin human trials. Tension quickly heats up as the dinner guest react with widely ranging views. How does it work? What gives them the right? Who actually benefits? Would anyone ever really want to change who they are? And what about the even darker ramifications? Could this drug eventually be *forced* on people? Or given to them surreptitiously? Ava must consider all sides because once the gene therapy is released to the public, there can be no taking it back. In the end the strongest rebuke comes from Raina. A series of flashbacks shows us her long history with Ava, and we learn Raina is in a unique position to know what scares Ava most of all. Can Raina do everything in her power to stop this gene therapy, even if it means giving up Ava’s most precious secrets?

### **Unique Marketing Potential:**

In a world where scientific possibilities seem endless and Big Pharma continues to create expensive drugs for every possible condition, the debate is raging all across America – do we really need these drugs? Who is pulling the strings? And at what cost? This would make an excellent arthouse and/or film festival film. Given the primary location of a friendly dinner gathering, the movie could be made at a relatively low budget.

### **About the Writer:**

Kelsey Tucker is an attorney, writer, producer and actor. She recently wrote and produced her first feature film, *THE COMPETITION*, which had a limited theatrical release in 2018. She is currently working on several new screenplays, including *RUSH THE MOON*, about a boy and his grandfather and how none of us ever truly grows old, and *THE MAGIC PAINTBRUSH & THE DOORWAY THROUGH THE NORTHERN LIGHTS*, about a 12-year old girl who must summon enough magic to paint a doorway for Santa and his sleigh to come through in time to save Christmas.