

## **Proof by David Auburn**

### **Synopsis:**

The play concerns Catherine, the daughter of a deceased mathematical genius and professor, and her struggle with her own mathematical genius and possible mental illness. Catherine had cared for her father through his own lengthy mental illness. After her father's death, a former graduate student of his discovers a paradigm-shifting proof about prime numbers in his office. But who is the real author? Along with demonstrating the proof's authenticity, Catherine must deal with a new romantic relationship, and her own fears of descending into madness as she struggles to maintain control.

### **Characters:**

*(ages refer to the character's age)*

Catherine – woman, mid 20's to early 30's. A math genius like her father, she fears she may have inherited his mental illness as well.

Claire – Catherine's older sister, late 20's to mid-30's. Practical, successful, business minded.

Robert – Father to Catherine & Claire. 50's to 60's. Math genius plagued by delusional mental illness in his later years.

Harold (Hal) – Former grad student of Robert's. 20's to 30's.