

The Lays of Our Lives
by
Kris Thompson

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Cast of Characters

DOCTOR DOVE	Nutty physician who absolutely should not be practicing medicine. Wears a white lab coat. Is constantly putting glasses on and off. Plays it straight.
BOBBY IVORY	30s, son of Charles and Lavinia. Heir to the Ivory empire. Surfer dude.
CHARLES IVORY	Head of Ivory empire. In hospital.
LAVINIA IVORY	Wife of Charles. OVERLY DRAMATIC.
MARIA	Sexy Brazilian mistress of Charles, previous Nanny to Bobby.

Synopsis

This Soap Opera inspired play finds Charles Ivory in the hospital on his death bed, his devoted wife Virginia close by, and his pregnant lover just around the corner. A surfing son, a questionable doctor, a nanny-on-the-side, a soap empire hanging in the balance...and there might just be some dancing with placentas.

Setting

Hospital Room.

Time

Current Day.

ACT I
Scene 1

SETTING: Hospital Room with bed and a couple of chairs

AT RISE: CHARLES is lying in a hospital bed, propped up with pillows so the audience can see him. LAVINIA is next to CHARLES, holding his hand.

CHARLES

Darling, if I die, you must put on a brave face and go on without me.

LAVINIA

Charles, you're not going to die. I won't let you! Doctor Dove is the nation's most renowned neurologist. You're in good hands.

(DOCTOR DOVE enters, carrying several patient charts.)

LAVINIA (Cont.)

Doctor Dove! Thank goodness you're here. Do you have the test results?

DOCTOR DOVE

I absolutely do! It's twins! Mazel tov!

CHARLES

Excuse me?

DOCTOR DOVE

Oh, goodness. (fumbles w/charts) That is not right. Sorry about that. Here we go. Charles Ivory. Yes. I'm afraid you've got a brain cloud.

LAVINIA

Oh my God! What is a brain cloud?

DOCTOR DOVE

(pulls out/messing w/cell phone) Google, come on. It means...well, damn. Why can't I connect? Do you guys know the hospital's Wi-Fi password?

CHARLES

Doctor! Brain Cloud? What's the bottom line on that?

DOCTOR DOVE

Right. The bottom line is that you have one, maybe two weeks.

LAVINIA

Doctor, what are you saying? Two weeks for what?

DOCTOR DOVE

(inappropriately joking) To pay my bill of course. (somewhat serious) No. Just kidding. You have at least a month for that. (clears his throat, serious) To live. You have two weeks to live.

LAVINIA

Oh my God!

DOCTOR DOVE

I'm sure you have lots to discuss if you'll excuse me.

(DOCTOR DOVE exits, holding his phone up, trying to get a cell signal.)

CHARLES

Darling, I'm weak but I had no idea my condition was so serious. We should contact Bobby.

LAVINIA

Isn't he surfing in Figi?

(BOBBY enters and goes to CHARLES' side.)

BOBBY

Mom! Dad! Dude! I just heard the news and I'm like no way. What the hell is a brain cloud?

LAVINIA

How did you find out? We thought you were in Figi!

BOBBY

I was. This morning I'm riding this tasty wave and I hear this voice in my head and it said, "Dude. Your Dad has a brain cloud." So, I hopped on the family jet-

CHARLES

We were wondering where that was.

BOBBY

-and here I am. So, Dude, what's a brain cloud?

CHARLES

We're not exactly sure son. Lavinia, can you go get Dr. Dove back here? Perhaps he can help explain.

LAVINIA

Of course, my darling.

(LAVINIA exits.)

CHARLES

Son, what we do know is that I have only weeks to live.

BOBBY

Dad! Dude! No way. (crying, drapes himself over CHARLES' legs)

CHARLES

I'm afraid the time has come for you to hang up your surfboard and pick up my corporate mantle.

BOBBY (sniffling)

Your corporate what?

CHARLES

Mantle. My...the business. Take my place running the business.

BOBBY (frustrated at this old conversation)

Oh man. Not the soap business. Dude.

CHARLES

You are the only Ivory family heir. You must take responsibility.

(MARIA enters wearing a raincoat so you can't see the shape of her body and rushes to CHARLES' side.)

CHARLES (Cont., Surprised)

Maria?

MARIA

Oh, my Charlie. I can't believe you're dying. I love you. Please don't die!

BOBBY

Maria my nanny?

MARIA (flirting)

Hi Bobby. Ohhh....You got so big!

BOBBY

(to CHARLES) Dude. Uncool.

(BOBBY Exits as his father calls after him.)

CHARLES

(calling to BOBBY as he exits) Bobby wait! (pause) Maria, how did you hear-

MARIA

My OBGYN told me "Your Charlie has a brain cloud".

CHARLES

Why would your OBGYN know that?

MARIA

He's a very good doctor. Many certificates on the wall.

CHARLES

I hope Bobby can forgive me. He's my only heir. I need him to run the business when I'm gone.

MARIA

But Charlie, he is not your only heir after all!

(MARIA removes raincoat to reveal she is very pregnant. CHARLES reacts with shock. DOCTOR DOVE enters, with charts.)

DOCTOR DOVE

There you are, Maria. It's twins! Mazel tov!

MARIA

Twins! I can't wait to find out the sexes.

DOCTOR DOVE

Maria, I would think you already know about the sexes. You see, when a man (point a finger with one hand) and a woman (make a circle with the other hand)-

MARIA

Oh...silly doctor. I do know about all that. What I don't know about is why I have to pee every five minutes!

(MARIA Exits as DOCTOR DOVE gets out his cell to look that up.)

DOCTOR DOVE

(calling to MARIA as she exits) Not to worry! It's a common symptom of pregnancy!

CHARLES (interrupting)

I'm sorry. Doctor Dove...you're an OBGYN?

DOCTOR DOVE

Don't be sorry. I love being an OBGYN. Up to my elbows in the fun bits all day long. For free. In fact, they pay me! (chuckles)

CHARLES

But we were told you are a Neurologist.

DOCTOR DOVE

I do that too. I do both. Honestly, gynecology is more fun, but with neurology you get to look at lots of really cool x-rays and stuff.

(LAVINIA enters.)

CHARLES

Darling.

LAVINIA

Don't darling me! Do you think that just because you are lying there in a hospital bed with a terminal disease no one has ever heard of, that I will overlook the fact that our previous nanny, Maria, is pregnant with your twin boys?

CHARLES

Boys? Are you sure? How do you know?

DOCTOR DOVE

This is all pretty basic stuff. You see boys have (makes a pointy finger with one hand) a-

LAVINIA

Doctor Dove, would you please give us a few minutes of privacy?

DOCTOR DOVE

Of course. But I'd like to advise you that even a few minutes of happy slappy could be dangerous for Charles in his condition.

(DOCTOR DOVE exits but immediately there is the OS sound of baby cries, and he immediately returns with two babies wrapped up with pink blankets. During dialogue he puts one in CHARLES' arms and one in LAVINIA'S arms.)

DOCTOR DOVE

I realize you're dying, but I thought you'd like to see your babies before you go.

CHARLES

Wait. I thought you said they were boys.

DOCTOR DOVE

True. I thought for sure I had the boy (points with one hand) girl (makes a circle with the other hand) thing down. (pulls out/messing w/cell) Come on Google!

(DOCTOR DOVE exits.)

LAVINIA (rocking baby, scolding charles)

I can't believe I'm standing here holding one of your babies...with the nanny! The nanny for heaven's sake. Really Charles.

CHARLES

Darling. Remember when Bobby was a baby. He smelled just like this.

LAVINIA

Don't think you're going to soften me up with baby talk. I'm very angry with you. I don't know if I can ever forgive you.

CHARLES

Darling, I'm dying. Doesn't that count for something? You only need forgive me for a couple of weeks and then you can go back to being angry with me. What do you say? Truce?

(BOBBY enters with his face in his phone, reading. He does not look up.)

BOBBY

Mom, Dad. I have some interesting news. There's a Brain Cloud Reddit. Apparently, there's a Summer Solstice tradition that can actually reverse a Brain Cloud and a bunch of other weird diseases. But...it's impossible.

LAVINIA

What is it? Why is impossible?

BOBBY (reading)

So, first, history says it only works when the sun stands still? Some say this is on St. John's Day during the Summer Solstice? But, Dude, who the hell knows when that is?

LAVINIA

June 24th. That's today.

CHARLES

Your mother used to be a Wiccan.

BOBBY

Dude. That's crazy. Well, you have to (reading) obtain the blood of two virgins.

LAVINIA

Bobby. Meet your half-sisters.

CHARLES

No....

LAVINIA

I'm not a monster Charles.

(LAVINIA gives CHARLES the 2nd baby and exits and immediately returns with two bags.)

LAVINIA (Cont.)

Placentas.

BOBBY

Gross.

CHARLES

What else?

BOBBY

Dude this is so weird. So, two people who love the afflicted person must, each, hold the blood of a virgin while singing and dancing around the afflicted person.

LAVINIA

Come on Bobby. We can do this!

(LAVINIA hands BOBBY one of the bags of placenta and they both start **singing/dancing AD LIB** around CHARLES until CHARLES passes out.)

BOBBY

Dad! Dude! Wake up!

LAVINIA

Oh my God. We've killed him! Bobby! Run and get Doctor Dove.

(BOBBY exits.)

LAVINIA

(speaking to an unconscious CHARLES) Oh Charles, what have we done? Our lives were so perfect until today. Now, you lie before me dying of a rare or made-up disease, with children from another mother in your arms, while I'm dancing with placentas. Nothing makes sense anymore.

(LAVINIA drapes her body over CHARLES' legs and weeps. DOCTOR DOVE enters.)

DOCTOR DOVE

There they are! Couldn't remember where I left them.

(Picks up both babies and turns to leave.)

LAVINIA

Doctor! My husband!

DOCTOR DOVE

Yes. We've met. And not too long ago. I'm surprised you don't remember.

(DOCTOR DOVE exits with babies but moments later enters without babies. CHARLES sits up and gets out of bed, but this is not noticed by LAVINIA.)

LAVINIA

Doctor! You're back!

DOCTOR DOVE

Yes. I am aware of where I am. Are you feeling quite well Mrs. Ivory?

LAVINIA

Never mind about me! My husband. He passed out. We were trying to cure him with this blood ritual ceremony.

CHARLES

Forgive me darling?

LAVINIA (surprised)

Oh Charles!

(LAVINIA & CHARLES hug)

DOCTOR DOVE

Ahhh...The Summer Solstice Affliction Reversal Ceremony. Now why didn't I think of that! Mrs. Ivory. Have you ever thought about becoming a doctor?

LAVINIA

I feel like I'm a bit too old for that. It would take soooo many years of school...

DOCTOR DOVE

Not necessarily...Not every doctor goes to school, you know.

(Pulls out a medicine bottle.)

Celebration pills anyone?

THE END