

EXTRACT

The Celine Dion Songbook

a short play

by

Alex Broun

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PLAY SCRIPT HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM www.alexbroun.com

BY AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF www.alexbroun.com AND
PAYING THE DOWNLOAD FEE YOU ARE PERMITTED TO PERFORM THIS PLAY
ROYALTY FREE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR A PERIOD OF **12 MONTHS**
FROM THE DATE OF DOWNLOAD.

IF YOU DO PERFORM THIS PLAY PLEASE VISIT OUR **RECORD A PRODUCTION**
PAGE AND RECORD THE DETAILS OF YOUR PRODUCTION SO YOUR
PRODUCTION CAN BE LISTED AMONGST THE THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTIONS
OF ALEX'S WORK WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR.

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR ON
abroun@bigpond.net.au

© Alex Broun 2004

The Celine Dion Songbook

Cast

TRACEY a wife and mother, 30s

PAUL her husband, 30s

Setting

Kitchen of a semi-detached house.

Time

Night.

2am.

The Celine Dion Songbook.

Kitchen. 2am

PAUL sits at the kitchen table, a cup of coffee and notepad and pen on the table in front of him. He is still. Long pause. **TRACEY** enters, holding a syringe.

TRACEY: He seems to be quiet now.

TRACEY PLACES THE SYRINGE IN A DISPOSAL UNIT. SHE REMOVES HER GLOVES. SHE GOES TO THE SINK AND WASHES HER HANDS, THEN SHE BEGINS CLEANING SOME SMALL BOTTLES. NEXT SHE OPENS A SMALL BOX FULL OF VIALS. SHE BEGINS CHECKING THEM, HOLDING THEM UP AGAINST THE LIGHT.

TRACEY: Darling, I said he seems to be alright. We must go to Doctor Bourke again tomorrow. I'm running out of Dexihedrine. Have we still got that spare script we got last month from Doctor Ryan. We should get some Tamochotil at the same time. We must remember to claim for that. I don't think we got the full amount. We can get sixty percent, I think. What did we get last time? Do you remember that nice lady we spoke to who said we could get sixty percent? I think it was Barbara. Or Betty. Something beginning with B. Do you remember? Darling?

PAUSE. TRACEY CLOSSES THE BOX. SHE GOES TO THE TABLE AND CHECKS PAUL'S COFFEE. SHE TAKES THE CUP AND GOES BACK TO THE SINK.

TRACEY: Finished? Another one? What's the time? Maybe we should go to bed. You have to drop me off on the clinic before work. I have to pick up those Test results. I'll just give him the Lachmose. (PAUSE. SHE STOPS AND LOOKS AT PAUL.) Paul?

PAUL: Peter will be six in September.

TRACEY: That's right.

PAUL: September the twenty first.

TRACEY: Yes.

PAUL: How many Doctors do you think he's seen in that six years?

TRACEY: (LAUGHS) What?

PAUL: How many Doctors do you think he's seen in that six years?

TRACEY: I heard you - it's just such an odd question.

PAUL: One hundred and thirty seven.

TRACEY: What?

PAUL: (INDICATING PAD) I've worked it out. One hundred and thirty seven.

TRACEY: Well, it's a lot. I guess it could be right.

PAUL: Trust me. That's an average of twenty two point eight per year.
Give or take.

TRACEY: Give or take what?

PAUL: You can check it if you like.

TRACEY: I haven't got a calculator.

PAUL: It's right.

PAUSE.

TRACEY: What's your point?

PAUL: Nothing. Just an interesting statistic.

TRACEY: (SMILING) Maybe we should put up a chart. Keep score.
Another coffee or bed?

PAUL: How much money do you think we've spent on those one
hundred and thirty seven doctors? Roughly.

TRACEY: I have no idea.

PAUL: One hundred and forty thousand dollars. Give or take.

TRACEY: It could be. The insurance did cover some of it. Before it

PAUL: Not too mention - needles, syringes, medications, pills, ampules,
gloves, cotton wool, disinfectant, rubber sheets, thermometers,
blood pumps, stethoscopes -

TRACEY: Again, I don't see your point.

PAUL: But this is the big one. Money, Doctors - they don't come near this one.
Time. How much time do you think has been spent in seeing those

PAUL: (CONT) Doctors, in administering those medications, in monitoring that faint little heartbeat?

TRACEY: He's your son. It shouldn't be about time.

PAUL: Fourteen hours a day. Fourteen hours a day for three hundred and sixty five days a year for six years. Let me do the sums for you. (READING FROM THE PAD) Fourteen hours times three hundred and sixty five days equals five thousand, one hundred and ten hours per year. Five thousand one hundred and ten hours times six years, give us a grand total of thirty thousand, six hundred and sixty hours. That's one million, eight hundred and thirty nine thousand and six hundred minutes.

TRACEY: So you can count.

PAUL: Or one hundred and ten million, three hundred and seventy six thousand seconds.

TRACEY: And I would not take back one single second. (PAUSE) Paul - please. It's late. Peter needs his Lachmose. I'll just give him his shot and we'll go to bed. You just need some rest for those tired eyes. And tired brain - after all those sums.

PAUL: How many children in the world suffer from Peter's condition?

TRACEY: I don't think they know.

PAUL: Give or take.

TRACEY LOOKS AT PAUL. PAUSE.

PAUL: Humour me.

TRACEY: Well Peter is the only one in Australia. That we know. There's that little girl in Scotland. We spoke to her mother. The boy in India we heard about. There were two in the States. And that girl in Japan. Wasn't there a couple in China?

PAUL: Three. That's one in Scotland, one in India, one in Japan, two in the US and three in China. That's of course that we know. There could be many more - in Africa, Thailand, perhaps Lithuania.

TRACEY: Perhaps.

PAUL: But of those we know, what was the maximum age any of them reached? The maximum.