

# DOUBLE TROUBLE

A short play by

Arianna Rose

© All Rights Reserved  
Member, Dramatists Guild of America

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

### **SYNOPSIS**

Des and Jordan, newborn twins, are getting acquainted with each other and how it all works.

### **Characters**

JORDAN, newborn twin to DES, Old soul

DES, newborn twin to JORDAN, New soul

### **TIME:**

The Present

### **PLACE:**

The Nursery.

*Playwright notes:*

*Any two actors of any gender can perform this play.*

*The actors should use their **normal adult speaking voices** to portray the characters until the very last line.*

*The cribs can be denoted as simply as with two chairs with the chair backs facing the audience.*

*((A nursery. Fraternal twins DES AND JORDAN are taking in their new surroundings))*

DES

What IS this place?

JORDAN

Seriously?

DES

*(confused)* We were up there...*(gesturing to heaven)*

JORDAN

Yes....

DES

then inside the nice lady....

JORDAN

That would be our mother....

DES

Mother....then that awful thing happened...

JORDAN

Being born?

DES

...born....and now we're..we're...

JORDAN

In our crib.

DES

Crib?

JORDAN

*(sotto voce)* Clearly, I am destined to be the smarter of the two.

DES

But these are...bars! Is this -a---what's the word-- prison?

JORDAN

Well – sometimes. Depends how you look at it.

DES

What happens next?

JORDAN

Life!

DES

How do you know so much?

JORDAN

Thirty-eighth time on Earth. Reincarnation rocks!

DES

You're an oldie...

JORDAN

...but a goodie! And the correct term is "old soul".

DES

Sorry.

JORDAN

You should be. One thing you must always remember...

DES

Yes?

JORDAN

I'm the oldest. I came out 2 minutes and 23 seconds before you.

DES

Okay...

JORDAN

You're the younger sibling. I'm in charge. Got it?

DES

Got it.

*(beat)*

*(they do baby things, like try and put their foot in their mouth, or try to climb out of crib, have their head swivel back and forth as if watching a baby mobile, or suck on a pacifier)*

DES

Jordan...

JORDAN

*(distracted)* Mmmm...

DES

Jordan!

What. Is. It. Des. JORDAN

(whispered) It's my first time. DES

First time... JORDAN

Yeah! DES

First time as a twin, you mean... JORDAN

First ever! I'm a brand new soul! DES

Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo. JORDAN

Yes! DES

Why do I always get the newbies? (*gesturing to heaven*) How could you do this to twins? JORDAN

Wait. What's a twin? DES

Page 437 in the manual? JORDAN

There's a manual? DES

OH MY GOD. And to think, we are bonded together for life. JORDAN

Is that a long time? DES

It's feeling very long right now. JORDAN

Why are you being so mean? DES

JORDAN

I am not!

DES

Yes you are! I'm going to tell the nice lady- mother – on you.

JORDAN

Now why would you do that?

DES

So that you'll...you'll...stop!

JORDAN

Des. Calm down. You are not thinking the long game here.

DES

Tell me why you're being so mean.

JORDAN

Because - ...because. It's hard enough being born again and having to do all the stuff over like potty training and algebra and the first breakup....god that one hurts..... high school! I've lived through high school thirty-seven times! - and when they cancel your favorite tv show... don't even get me started on that!

DES

I don't know what any of those things are.

JORDAN

You will. Ooh - Just wait till you get to word problems in math. One lifetime was enough of that.

DES

But...I wanted to experience all the good things on Earth! It looks so pretty from heaven. What do they call it? A big –

JORDAN

Big blue marble.

DES

Big blue marble. That's beautiful.

JORDAN

It is. But there are problems like you wouldn't believe.

DES

I don't want to hear about the problems! I just got here!

JORDAN

I'm the oldest. It's my job to protect you. Looks like it may be a full-time job.

DES

Well...maybe I don't want to be a – a - twin. Maybe I don't want to be here at all. Maybe I want to go back!

JORDAN

Even if you could, they'd just send you back....till you get it right.

DES

Can I look at your manual?

JORDAN

I don't have it HERE, it's back there!

DES

But how am I supposed to ---

JORDAN

No looking back, kid, only forward! Welcome to my number thirty-seven, your number – one. We've got a long lifetime ahead of us, according to my guides. And a lot of very ugly matching outfits.

DES

So....you're saying....we're STUCK here? With each other?

JORDAN

I'm afraid so.

*(both look at each other, then on cue, simultaneously)*

JORDAN, DES

*(furious wailing)* WAAAAHHHHHHH!

END OF PLAY