

THREE QUARTER INCHES OF SKY
by Sherry Kramer

About the play (from the playwright):

The play is a meditation about memory—how we make it, how it makes us. It also is in conversation with our new technologically mediated selves. We are filled with vivid, tender, heartbreaking, exciting memories that aren't actually ours, but look and feel like they are. We have an intimate relationship with wraiths. It's changed the way we dream. It's changed the way our dreams shape us. And it's changed the world.

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TRULA—Female, 40-60s

About the scene:

TRULA, who is the primary caretaker for her father, is hiding a terminal illness. She and her father bond over classic movies. At this point, early in the play, she is addressing the audience.

TRULA

I walked into my father's room.

He was watching a movie on TCM. I looked at approximately 2 seconds of it . . . and I said: *Dark Victory*.

Then I walked back into the kitchen to get his chicken pot pie.

Dark Victory is the Bette Davis film where she has this super polite brain tumor, it gives her a few headaches now and then, a little memory loss but nothing alarming, and best of all, it's going to send her a warning to let her know that in like 2 minutes she's going to be dead. The warning will be in the form of sudden darkness. This will be the sign that she'll have 2 minutes, before she goes completely blind, to arrange herself artistically in bed, and say something moving and memorable and die.

That's brain cancer in the movies. So frigging convenient. That's the thing about movies—they are lifelike. But not like life at all.

In real life it would go like this: you notice that your long term memory is fine, but your short term memory is shot. You dismiss it. You'll say you're just getting older.

Gradually, you'll realize that things are getting darker. You'll replace all the 75 watt bulbs with 150 watt ones. It won't help. Eventually, maybe in a year, maybe in 5, you'll go completely blind. By this time, of course, you'll have seen a doctor, but because you are not Bette Davis, your doctor will not marry you and leave his or her practice and throw themselves into research to try to save you. Nope. You'll sleep more and more, and you'll slip into a coma. And then you'll die.

Who wouldn't want to die in the movies. No wonder so many characters do. Also, the costumes are great.