

Content Advisories.

Audience members who would like to make use of our content advisories for *Lay Down All Dogs* can find a comprehensive list below. Please note that while the "Generic" and "Detailed" sections are as vague to protect story details, the "Master" header marks the beginning of a more thorough, spoiler-filled summary.

Generic = Basic Information
Detailed = Extended Summary
Master = Full notes & examinations

Generic:

This production contains themes closely related to terminal illness, death, suffocation, and grief, as well as references to the death of an animal, mental or emotional abuse, mature language, and depictions of staged violence.

CATEGORY:

- Death, grief, sickness (human and animal)
- Adultery
- Verbal abuse
- Violence
- Suffocation
- Poison
- Drug abuse (pills)

Detailed:

- Themes, references, & discussions of terminal illness resulting in the death of a family member (father), as well as murder, death, and grief.
- Themes, discussions & depictions of poisoning and what may be interpreted as drug abuse, though not the intention of the production.
- Themes & discussions of adultery.
- Discussion of the death of an animal and what may be interpreted as animal abuse, though not the intention of the production.
- Themes, discussions & depictions of mental and emotional abuse in the forms of gaslighting, black-mail, and manipulation.
- Discussions & depictions of staged violence resulting in death (poisoning, suffocation)

Master

- Themes, references, & discussions of terminal illness (brain cancer) resulting in the death of a family member.
 - o These themes of sickness, death, and grief are central to the initial action of the plot and thus are consistent throughout the production.
- Themes and depictions of poisoning.
 - o The death of the family dog, Jonah, is revealed in Act 2 to have been caused by one of the sisters force-feeding him lemonade that has been mixed with prairie dog poison.
 - See Animal for additional note.
 - o In Act 2, a character, Brightly, unknowingly drinks the poisoned lemonade. We see the symptoms of poisoning throughout 2.3, until Brightly collapses behind the couch.
- Themes and Discussions of drug abuse.
 - o Though it is not the written nor the staged intention of the production, there are references throughout that Haven may be abusing her medications, specifically Adderall, and it results in her not sleeping or eating.
 - This is staged and discussed in 1.1, staged at the end of 1.4.
- References to adultery.
 - o It is revealed that Brightly was the son in Levi's second, secret family.
 - o Thus, it is implied that the father was in two overlapping marriages that neither spouse was aware of.
- References, discussions, and depictions of suffocation and murder.
 - o In 2.1 and 2.2, the sisters bury Brightly's body off-stage, unaware that he was buried alive. In 2.3, Brightly is dressed in and references that he was buried alive and had to climb/crawl out of his grave.
 - o In 2.3, following the ingestion of poison and the onset of symptoms, Jenna takes a pillow and holds it over Brightly's face until he is dead.
 - This action happens on stage, but it is shielded by the couch, which blocks the full view and thus the action of suffocation via pillow.
- Discussions of the death of an animal.
 - o It is revealed in 1.1 that the family dog, Jonah, died through the night, and that Jenna is trying to dig the grave but is interrupted by Haven.
 - The death of the dog and the body of the dog happens off-stage and prior to the action of the show.
 - o In 2.2, it is revealed that Jenna had force-fed Jonah lemonade that had been spiked with poison.
 - Though this is done with the intention of compassionate euthanasia, and though it is not the intention of the written or the staged production, it may be interpreted as an act of animal cruelty.
 - See Poison for additional notes.
 - o In 2.3, Jenna tells a story of Haven finding a rat caught in a trap when they were children, and how she tried to save it, but it died.

- Themes, discussions, and depictions of abuse
 - o Brightly both enacts behaviour indicative of and embodies traits of emotional and mental abuse that are relevant to the script.
 - This includes manipulation, misleading identity, gaslighting, and black mailing.
 - In Act 2, this abuse becomes physical when Brightly ‘grabs and man-handles’ Haven upstairs into the closet/trapped door.
 - Brightly weaponizes Haven’s mental health to paint a picture of an unstable individual who should not be in charge of herself or her own finances. He uses language which condescends to and antagonizes Haven and her unidentified mental health status as another abusive, manipulation tactic.
 - Brightly’s terminology indicates abuse of power and the abuse of systematic and judicial power, as well as threats of institutionalization and/or incarceration.
- Depictions of staged violence
 - o Violence with and without a weapon.
 - End of 1.4, Haven lunges at Brightly in the power outage and strikes him across the head. She hits him in the head with the flashlight a minimum of two times, resulting in Brightly being knocked unconscious and presumed dead.
 - Simultaneously, there is the forced destruction of a lockbox. Not necessarily stage violence, but potential of weapon to be handled by actor of Jenna and a loud, sudden noise.
 - 2.3a, Brightly, back from the dead, grabs and forces Haven upstairs and locks her away in a ‘closet/trap door’. He then proceeds to rip her belongings.
 - 2.3b, Brightly is beginning to show symptoms of poisoning. His actions while experiencing these symptoms may be interpreted as violent depending on interpretation.
 - 2.3c, Brightly is lunging at the sisters, trying to reach the phone, and he collapses. Jenna then uses a pillow to suffocate Brightly behind the couch until he is deceased.