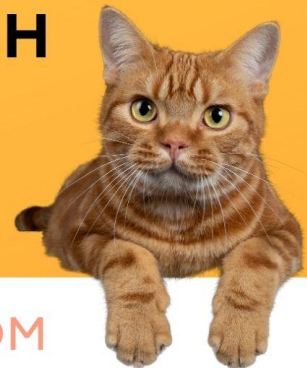




A 10-MINUTE PLAY FOR ZOOM
A Human Body to Hug

BY TARA MEDDAUGH



WWW.TARAMEDDAUGH.COM

A HUMAN BODY TO HUG

by

Tara Meddaugh

A 10-minute play

Designed for Video/Zoom performance

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A HUMAN BODY TO HUG

EXCERPT

By Tara Meddaugh

Character Breakdown

CODY A young man in his 20s.

DANA A young woman in her 20s.

Setting

Spring 2020, during the global covid-19 pandemic. New York State. Dana and Cody are in their respective homes on a Zoom blind date.

AT RISE: CODY and DANA are young professionals, 20s, on a Zoom conference call. It's their first virtual blind date with each other. CODY has a background of Mayan ruins in Mexico. DANA has a cat on her lap, with her kitchen in view behind her. They're both a bit awkward.

CODY
Hi, um, Dana?

DANA
Yeah. Hi. This is—yeah, I'm Dana. Cody, right?

CODY
Yeah. Cody.

DANA
Dana.

CODY
(points to her)
Dana.

DANA
(points back to him)
Cody.

CODY
Now we won't forget.

DANA
I mean...our names are also written under our faces. So.
(pause)
I like your Zoom background.

CODY
Oh, yeah. Thank you. I—um, it's actually a photo of, I went to, um, have you ever been to Egypt?

DANA
No.

CODY
Well—I actually haven't either. But, um, I went to Mexico. And they have—I mean, what you

see in the background? These, um, they have their own pyramids in Mexico. I took a trip there. It was this—it was an excursion from the hotel.

DANA

Oh, cool.

CODY

Yeah, so this excursion was to these, like, these Mayan ruins. Do you know what I mean?

DANA

I can see the picture.

CODY

Yeah. Like that.

DANA

You're a good photographer.

CODY

Thanks.

(pause)

I mean, I didn't actually take this picture. I found it online.

DANA

Well—you're—you have good browsing skills.

CODY

But I did go to Mexico. I mean, I'm not, like, some psycho lying to you or something.

DANA

No, I didn't think that.

(pause)

CODY

I'm just nervous.

DANA

Me too.

CODY

You don't seem nervous.

DANA

Well, you can't see me sweating or, like, shaking my leg.

CODY

No, you look, you know, confident.

DANA

Well, I guess, thank you.

(pause)

CODY

Ally said you work in marketing?

DANA

Yeah. Um. Life insurance. I know life insurance doesn't sound that interesting. But I can work from home right now. I'm lucky, you know. I can do that.

CODY

Ally also said you were really nice. You volunteer at an animal shelter.

DANA

Yeah, I don't mind animal poo and fleas and stuff, so I try to, you know, put those skills to good use. Does that sound weird?

CODY

No, I like that. You're tough. I volunteer ushering at a theater. No fleas, but the people can be rude.

DANA

I'd take fleas over rude people, so I think you're brave.

(pause)

CODY

Did Jack tell you I've been to Mexico?

DANA

No...he said you were a good guy. But Mexico didn't come up.

CODY

I've also been to the Grand Canyon. And Maine for a wedding.

DANA

Oh, that's cool. I've actually never left New York State.

CODY

Do you want to?

DANA

Yeah, totally. Like, I'd like to go Mexico too some day. But—you know. Of course, not now. It's hard to—you know, it's hard to think about traveling anywhere. But. I mean...I also think about traveling all the time. So, I guess it's not that hard.

CODY

Yeah...

(pause)

Hey, do you have a cat on your lap?

DANA

Oh, yeah, I do. Thank God for cats, right? He's the only living thing I've touched in 7 weeks.

CODY

That's hard.

DANA

Jack said you live with your mom?

CODY

Yeah. You know, I'm just teaching part time right now—Spanish. So it's not a lot of money and—

DANA

No, it's cool you're not alone. Do you hug her?

CODY

Um. Sometimes.

DANA

That must be so nice. Like, a human body. Like, human size to hug. You know? Cats are—cats are great, right? But they only cuddle on a tiny part of you at a time.

CODY

I don't cuddle with my mom.

DANA

No. I don't mean...I don't mean that. I just mean, if you hug her, you have, like, human contact, head to toe or something. Right?

CODY
That's true.

DANA
Was that weird to ask?

CODY
No.

DANA
Am I saying weird things?

CODY
No—you're saying real things. I mean, it's life under quarantine, right? At least you're not asking about my past relationships on a first date, so—

DANA
Is this a date?

CODY
I think so?

DANA
Can this be a date? I mean, we're not doing anything.

CODY
We're talking.

DANA
Yeah.

CODY
We're seeing each other. I can—I can see your kitchen. It looks really clean.

DANA
I'm mainly just eating cereal right now. So.

CODY
This could be a date.

DANA
Then...should we change our Zoom backgrounds to a restaurant or something?

CODY

Do you have a background like that?

END OF EXCERPT

For the complete play, visit:

<https://www.tameddaugh.com/a-human-body-to-hug-10minute-zoom-play>

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's MFA program in Dramatic Writing. Her work has been presented by Fusion Theatre, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Westchester Collaborative Theater, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, the Bobik Theatre Ensemble, The Acme Theatre Company, The Harlequin Players, *Woman Seeking...*, and numerous schools, universities and colleges including Gardner-Webb, Prince Williams, and Colgate. Her work has also showcased at the Artists of Tomorrow Festival in NYC, The Bangkok Community Theatre Fringe Festival, the Pittsburgh New Works Series and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Alaska. Students, teachers and actors world-wide have utilized her plays and monologues for competitions, Directing, Acting and Dramatic Literature courses and workshops in schools, colleges and theatres. Serial monologues she wrote were performed for two years by the internationally recognized receptionist-robot, Valerie. She has taught Playwriting and Screenwriting at Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and for The Westport Country Playhouse, and she has led Creative Dramatics Workshops for children in underserved areas throughout New York and New Jersey. Additionally, she toured in a Children's Theatre Troupe, which she wrote for, co-directed, and performed in. Tara's work has been published by YouthPLAYS, Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing and Applause Theatre & Cinema. She is a two-time recipient of the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild. Tara has written children's books, short stories, a novel, and writes and records music in the chick-core rap band, [Girl Crusade](#). She lives in Westchester County with her husband and two dramatic children.

For more information about Tara Meddaugh or her work,
visit her website at www.tameddaugh.com.