

Forbidden in The Elf Manual

a monologue from Grinching 101

by Tara Meddaugh



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

FORBIDDEN IN THE ELF MANUAL

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About the play, [GRINCHING 101](#):

Grinch professors, Sourpuss Fuddy Duddy and Killjoy Cactus Snarl, are pleased to find their Grinching 101 classroom filled with eager elf-students desiring to learn the art of becoming a grinch. However, the class of bright-eyed cheerful students are blatantly failing. Every. Single. Lesson. Are the elves really that dull? Are they actually trying? Or is there some other reason they're all in this class...? And is there anything, like, anything at all, that maybe...just maybe... the grinches can learn from the sugar-loving, compliment-spewing elves?

For the complete play, [GRINCHING 101](#), visit:

www.tarameddaugh.com/grinching-101-a-oneact-play

About the monologue, *Forbidden in the Elf Manual*:

The Grinching 101 professors have expressed frustration in their inept class of elves and wonder why they are even enrolled in the course. Tootsie Frosted Cookie Stockings explains his reasoning for signing up for Grinching 101: It's all about the videogames.

DETAILS:

Genre: Comedic/Children/Teen/Christmas

Running time: Approximately 1 minute

Cast: Male (or any gender)

Age range: Any age

Setting: A Grinching 101 Classroom at the North Pole

Time period: contemporary

TOOTSIE FROSTED COOKIE STOCKINGS

(clarifying name for the Grinching Professors who hate hearing the elves' long ridiculous sugary names)

It's Tootsie Frosted Cookie Stockings.

And the reason I came here today—the reason I thought I might actually be a bit of a grinch inside is that...well...I know this is going to terrify everyone, so brace yourself. But...

(ELVES lean in)

I hate making snowballs.

(ELVES gasp)

And sledding.

(ELVES gasp)

And frolicking in the snow at all really. I mostly just wanna play videogames. And not like, “Fill Santa’s Sleigh” videogames. I’ve seen Santa fill the sleigh in real life and it’s not that exciting. I wanna play scary videogames, where you have to survive zombie apocalypses and demented underwater creatures and animatronics in pizza restaurants! But apparently, scariness is strictly forbidden in the Elf Manual—even though I think it’s fun! So... If I want to play the videogames that I actually *like*...being a grinch is my only option.

END OF MONOLOGUE

For the complete play, [GRINCHING 101](http://www.tameddaugh.com/grinching-101), visit:
www.tameddaugh.com/grinching-101-a-oneact-play

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara holds her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University, is a member of the Dramatists Guild, and is the recipient of numerous theatrical awards, including The Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, The Bradford Gromelski Jury Award, The Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing The New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award, The Write Stuff Award, and The Arts Alive Recovery NY Regrant Award. Her work has been published by YouthPLAYS, Smith & Kraus, Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), Limelight Editions/ Applause Acting Series, The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing, Applause Theatre & Cinema, Performer Stuff and Ace-Your-Audition. Tara's plays have been presented by theater companies such as Fusion Theatre, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Tutti Bravi Productions, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Possibilities Theater, Tagragg Productions, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, The Acme Theatre Company, The Harlequin Players, Woman Seeking..., and countless universities, colleges and schools. Her work has showcased at festivals such as 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. Tens of thousands of teachers, actors and students world-wide have utilized her monologues for competitions, course material, auditions, performances, and showcases. Additionally, she has script consulted on several animation and VR projects and once wrote monologues for a receptionist robot long before AI was commonplace. Tara has taught Playwriting at Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, The Westport Country Playhouse, and numerous Theater workshops for children. She lives near NYC with her creative husband and kids, and fluffy cat, Kiwi.

During the Christmas season, you might find Tara enjoying hot chocolate while watching somewhat-cheesy Christmas movies, hosting a Candy Cane Hunt for kids or a Christmas Mystery Party for adults, or building strange snow creatures in the yard.



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