

A MONOLOGUE

*i am a
shark*

by

**by
Tara Meddaugh**

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I AM A SHARK
By Tara Meddaugh

DETAILS:

Genre: Drama/Children/Teen

Running time: Approximately 2 minutes

Cast: Male/Female, 10 years and up

Setting: A beach

Jaime is standing at a beach when confronted by a group of bullies who push him into the sand. He imagines he is a shark who is tough and can feel no pain.

JAMIE

Sometimes, when I stand on the beach and look out at the ocean, I imagine I'm a shark. My feet are hot, so hot they're burning. Burning so much, I start to not feel the pain anymore. I take several deep breaths, and I breathe out the heat through my nose. I can feel it leaving me. My feet are tingling. A little numb. But I feel no pain. I am a shark. I'm swimming through the water and you can cut me with your knives, but my skin is hard and I am tough. And I feel no pain.

(pause)

A boy, this boy I know, but wish I didn't, runs out of the ocean and past me. I feel the cold water he's brought in on my legs. He's tossed sand on me too and it's sticking to me. I reach my hand down to feel the roughness on my legs. It's like sandpaper. His friend runs out of the water too, chasing him, and he bumps into me. Pushes past me. My body turns with him, but my feet stay grounded. Like a rooted flower blowing in the wind. I don't fall over. He yells something. *Freak...Try again...Knock...*but I can't make out these words. I can't understand them. My head is under water. Sound is muted down here. I am swimming fast. I am a shark.

(pause)

As two bodies now run past me, run into me, there is the sound of laughter. My roots were not deep enough. My face is burning hot against the floor of the beach. My hands push my body up and I taste sand in my mouth. It's rough in my mouth now. Like my legs, my arms, my chest. I feel a kick to my side, but it is nothing to me.

(pause)

I am strong. My skin is tough. I feel nothing.

(pause)

I am a shark.

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To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tameddaugh.com.

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.