

INTO THE VIOLET

by

TARA MEDDAUGH

a one-act absurdist dark comedy



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EXCERPT

For the complete play, [INTO THE VIOLET](https://www.tameddaugh.com/into-the-violet-a-dark-comedy), visit:
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Alan Lutwin, Dylan B., Luke B.

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INTO THE VIOLET was first performed on May 12, 2023 in Ossining, NY. It was produced by Westchester Collaborative Theater with the following cast:

Nadine.....Julie Griffin
Lola.....Missy Flower

Directed by Missy Flower

EXCERPT

INTO THE VIOLET

Character Breakdown

NADINE

A female fairy. 20s-40s. Dressed all in purple. A bit of a leader, although she may not have chosen to be a leader under normal circumstances. She's capable of being upbeat and disguising her worries, but they are deep and surface from time to time. Clings to the idea of a life of freedom, whether it is a reality or not. Trapped in a jar and so Time becomes meaningless and uncertain. Cares deeply for her friend, Lola.

LOLA

A female fairy. 20s-40s. Dressed all in purple. Tired, weak, used to feeling hopeless, but still loves the feeling of Hope. Trapped in a jar and so Time becomes meaningless and uncertain. Cares deeply for her friend, Nadine, even if she becomes irritated with her from time to time.

Setting

Outdoors, in a forest. Inside a glass jar behind a waterfall.

EXCERPT

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AT RISE: The rocky portion behind a water fall in a forest. NADINE and LOLA, two fairies, dressed all in purple, are in a glass jar on the ground, behind the waterfall. They are a bit disheveled, perhaps with ruffled wings. NADINE looks out eagerly through the waterfall. LOLA lies down.

NADINE

Lola—look! It’s—oh, the Sun Twinkles! Come look at them!

LOLA

No...

NADINE

Stand up! Lola, you’ll miss it all if you just lie there!

LOLA

But I want to just lie here.

NADINE

You’ll regret it!

LOLA

(rolls over)

I won’t.

NADINE

I’ll—here, I’ll help you. Just—can you put your feet down on the glass?

(LOLA puts her feet on the side of the glass, up in the air, not getting up)

Not the side, Lola—on the bottom.

LOLA

(starts to hesitantly put her feet down on the floor)

Are they purple?

NADINE

They’re yellow. A bit of red.

LOLA

Then no.

(her feet return to resting position)

NADINE

Wait! There is purple! I just didn't—I didn't see it at first, but now I do. There's purple, Lola! Purple! You know what that means!

LOLA

Of course I do! I—You're certain you see purple? They're really there?

NADINE

I swear on my life, Lola. Purple! The other fairies! They'll finally see us!

LOLA

But I look—My wings are so crumpled! My hair is like straw! What will they think when they see us?

(puts in the effort to stand up. NADINE helps her)

NADINE

They'll be impressed we lasted this long! Oh, Lola! Perfect beautiful fairy! You're standing!

LOLA

Dizzy...

NADINE

You can lean on me.

LOLA

(excitement grows)

I can barely breathe. Nadine, I can't believe this is actually happening. But they do say it's always when you finally lose hope that...

(looks through the waterfall)

I don't see any purple.

NADINE

Beyond the yellow.

LOLA

There's nothing but more yellow.

NADINE

Are your eyes open?

LOLA

Yes, they're open.

NADINE

They look half closed.

LOLA

Half-closed is still open.

NADINE

Just keep looking. When the purple comes closer, we'll jump and dance and they'll—

LOLA

There's clearly no purple, Nadine. No other fairies out there looking to rescue us! You lied to me!

(NADINE shrugs)

You swore on your life.

NADINE

So?

LOLA

Oh! This is why I can never trust you. You always lie.

NADINE

Only half the time. At most.

LOLA

Half the time is still lying.
(lies back down)

NADINE

I wanted you to stand.

LOLA

I hate standing. Just makes the jar feel smaller.

NADINE

But your legs need to remember they have a purpose.

LOLA

But they don't anymore.

NADINE

They could once again!

LOLA

That's a lie.

NADINE

I'm not sure if it is or isn't.

(looks out through the waterfall)

Can you check how many years we've been here?

LOLA

Why don't you? Your eyes are stronger.

NADINE

I'm watching the Sun Twinkles. They'll be gone soon and I don't want to miss a second of them. I can almost taste the fresh air and the sunlight warming my body from all directions. Do you remember that feeling?

LOLA

I remember musty humid shaded air.

NADINE

That's not remembering. That's what we have right now.

(pause)

All you have to do is roll over and look at the glass to check the year. You don't even have to sit up. Please?

LOLA

(rolls over and looks at some etchings on the glass)

8 years, 8 months, 8 weeks, 8 days and 8 hours.

NADINE

It's odd because this morning, it was 7 years, 7 months, 7 weeks, 7 days and 7 hours.

LOLA

Was that this morning? Or a year ago?

NADINE

I don't think we have a reliable tracking system.

LOLA

I hate being a fairy. This would never happen to a bear.

NADINE

Well, most fairies aren't trapped like we are.

LOLA

They're not?

NADINE

Fairies fly everywhere—owl burrows, flower rafts on the stream! Did you forget?

LOLA

I don't know. Maybe.

NADINE

But...did you know this? That fairies can also live in rainbows?

LOLA

That's a lie!

NADINE

No, it's true! Why do you think there's a row of violet in a rainbow?

LOLA

Those are the fairies?

NADINE

All in a perfect arc!

LOLA

I'd rather live in a rainbow than in this glass jar behind the waterfall.

NADINE

I like that you shared a Hope, Lola. It's been a very long time since—

LOLA

It's not a Hope. It's a Rather.

NADINE

Isn't it the same?

LOLA

Not at all. – **END OF EXCERPT**

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



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 numerous schools, universities and colleges including Gardner-Webb, Prince Williams, and Colgate. 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. Tara has taught Playwriting 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 has script consulted on several animation and VR projects. Tara's 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. She is a recipient of the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, Arts Alive Recovery NY Regrant Award, The Bradford Gromelski Jury Award Winner, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award, The Write Stuff Award, and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild. Tara holds her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University.

For more information about Tara Meddaugh or her work,
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