

LOCKING THE STORE

a monologue
by Tara Meddaugh



Copyright © 2004 by Tara Meddaugh

All rights reserved. No part of this play may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review. Any members of educational institutions wishing to photocopy part or all of the work for classroom use, or publishers who would like to obtain permission to include the work in an anthology, should send their inquiries via email to tmeddaugh@gmail.com.

CAUTION. Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that *Locking the Store* and *Poorly Wrapped* are subject to a royalty. All rights, including professional, amateur, motion picture, recitation, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound taping, all other forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as information storage and retrieval systems and photocopying, and rights of translation into foreign languages, are strictly reserved.

For the complete play, [*Poorly Wrapped*](http://www.tameddaugh.com/poorly-wrapped), from which this monologue comes, visit:
www.tameddaugh.com/poorly-wrapped

LOCKING THE STORE

A monologue from the one-act play, [*Poorly Wrapped*](#)

By Tara Meddaugh

About the one-act play, [*Poorly Wrapped*](#):

When a beautiful woman, Grace, walks into a local gift shop on a small island, Clark, the sales clerk, is instantly smitten with her. Under Grace's "guidance," he goes to extreme lengths to make sure she is satisfied with her purchase. Yet as her demands increase, the Clark is torn between his duty to the shop and his growing lust of this stranger.

For the complete play, [*Poorly Wrapped*](#), from which this monologue comes, visit:

www.tarameddaugh.com/poorly-wrapped

About the monologue, "Locking the Store":

Clark is a young man in his late teens or twenties. He is the sales clerk at a gift shop on a small isolated island. Grace, a beautiful customer, has convinced him to give her a free disposable camera, and to wrap it with a roll of wrapping paper from his store. He is smitten with her, beyond rational thought, and does what she asks. He has been wrapping the camera for her, but has been distracted by her beauty.

DETAILS:

Genre: Dark Comedy/Drama

Running time: Approximately 1.5 minutes

Cast: Male

Age range: Teen-adult

Setting: a gift shop

Time period: Early 2000s

CLARK

Grace, you're so beautiful. Maybe I should...look, it's almost five. I think maybe I'll just turn that sign over. Turn it over to say we're closed. Lock the door, maybe? Would that be alright with you? If I did that? I mean, just so we could make sure our time wasn't interrupted. You're so beautiful that I couldn't, I really wouldn't want it to be interrupted. You know? I mean, if someone walked through that door right now, I just, I just don't know what I'd do. What I'd be able to do. I just...

(moves to door)

I'm going to lock it. To say we're closed. No one will come here anyway. No one should. No one on this island stays out past 4:00. I'm mean, we're out. But that's us. We're different than all of

them, aren't we? We're the two people who are different, and I'm going to keep the rest of them out.

(switches sign to say it's closed and locks door)

There. Locked. That feels good. I feel really good now that they're all closed out, and it's just me and you, and our time together, and my gift for you. And I'm so glad—but you're so beautiful!—I'm so glad that you're not just my customer anymore. I know you want me to keep wrapping this gift for you, but I think maybe I should take a break from the wrapping. Just for a little bit, okay? Because you're so...you're so beautiful that it's starting to really hurt me.

END OF MONOLOGUE

To request permission of use, email tmeddaugh@gmail.com.
To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tameddaugh.com.

For the complete play, *[Poorly Wrapped](#)*, from which this monologue comes, visit:
www.tameddaugh.com/poorly-wrapped

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, 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,
visit her website at www.tameddaugh.com.

For permission to perform, contact tmeddaugh@gmail.com.