

# THE BRONZE LINING

a 10-minute play by

**Tara Meddaugh**



# The Bronze Lining

by

Tara Meddaugh

A 10-minute play

**EXCERPT**

Copyright © 2019 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 to Tara Meddaugh Playwriting via email to [tmeddaugh@gmail.com](mailto:tmeddaugh@gmail.com).

CAUTION. Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that *The Bronze Lining* is 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 permission to perform, contact [tmeddaugh@gmail.com](mailto:tmeddaugh@gmail.com).

## EXCERPT

For the complete play, [THE BRONZE LINING](https://www.tameddaugh.com/the-bronze-lining), visit:  
<https://www.tameddaugh.com/the-bronze-lining>

Special thanks to Erin Coulter, Kevin Snipes, Gabe Davis, Mike Bouteneff, Christopher Arena, Joe Albert Lima, Ossining Arts Council, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Tagragg Productions, Anchorage Community Theater (ACT), Colby Bleicher, Peter Andrews, Amy Lowenthal, Lorraine Federico

In memory of Joe Albert Lima and Roberta Meddaugh

## **EXCERPT**

THE BRONZE LINING

Character Breakdown

MINDY	A woman in her 20s-30s. She is Anne's older sister.
ANNE	A woman in her 20-30s. She is Mindy's younger sister.

Setting

A cool late afternoon/early evening. A forest trail, on a mountain. Present.

**EXCERPT**

**EXCERPT**

AT RISE: MINDY (20s-30s) and ANNE (20s-30s) are sisters. They are hiking with backpacks.

MINDY

Ah, is there a—what’s in my hair? What is that?

ANNE

I don’t know!

MINDY

Well, you can see it!

ANNE

I don’t know the name of it!

MINDY

I don’t need the name! Just—

ANNE

You asked what—

MINDY

Just get it out!

ANNE

Okay! I’ll—

(picks up a stick. Swats the stick at Mindy’s head)

I’ll try!

MINDY

You hit me!

ANNE

I’m not good at sports!

(she swats again)

MINDY

You’re gonna make it mad and it’ll sting me!

ANNE

You think it has a stinger?

MINDY  
Use. Your. Fingers.  
  
(pause)

ANNE  
Are you kidding me?

MINDY  
What?

ANNE  
Are you serious, Mindy?

MINDY  
Yes!

ANNE  
You want me to pick up that—we don't even know what it is—you want me to pick it up with my fingers? It might bite me!

MINDY  
It might bite me!

ANNE  
You know my hands are numb, right?  
  
(MINDY stares right at Anne then reaches into her hair and pulls the bug out of her hair. She tosses it, kind of in Anne's direction.)

MINDY  
You are totally no help in the woods.  
(she starts walking)

ANNE  
You didn't have to throw it at me!

MINDY  
I didn't. If I had thrown it at you, it would have been like this.  
(picks up another bug and throws it at Anne).

ANNE  
(screams)

Ah!!!

(sees no bug is on her)

Oh, nice, Mindy. Real mature. Who's the older sister?

(they start walking together)

MINDY

I told you to wear gloves.

ANNE

It was 60 degrees when we left.

MINDY

Well, it gets colder when you climb. Haven't you heard that before?

(they walk)

ANNE

This is not any fun at all.

MINDY

Did you think it was going to be?

ANNE

I don't know.

(pause)

I guess I hoped it might be.

MINDY

Why would you think this would be fun? We don't hike. We've never—

ANNE

When we were kids, we did.

MINDY

No, we didn't.

ANNE

With Mom and Dad. We went swimming in that lake and roasted marshmallows.

MINDY

That was camping. At a campground with, like, arcade games and a beach.



ANNE

Really?

MINDY

Yes, “really.” We stayed in a cabin. We didn’t hike.

ANNE

I thought...

MINDY

Oh...Oh, Anne...did you want to hike with me, because, like, it would be a nice bonding thing after Mom’s service? Kind of, I don’t know...the silver lining to her dying?

ANNE

That sounds awful how you’re saying it, Mindy. And you’re not a therapist. I didn’t—

MINDY

Because there’s no silver lining when someone dies. It just [sucks]—

ANNE

I know. I mean...actually, I don’t know that. Sometimes there is...or at least, I don’t know, a bronze lining? She was really bad, Mindy. The last few months. You weren’t there, but I was and—

MINDY

I didn’t think she was going to die this soon, Anne. How could I know? And I couldn’t just move back and live at home indefinitely like you.

ANNE

I wasn’t—

MINDY

You were already so close, and you were waiting tables...

ANNE

Right. Waiting tables is easy put on hold.

MINDY

I don’t mean it like that—I just—you’re better at taking care of people.

**END OF EXCERPT**

For the complete play, [THE BRONZE LINING](https://www.tameddaugh.com/the-bronze-lining), visit:  
<https://www.tameddaugh.com/the-bronze-lining>

## 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 Terrebbonne, 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 Smith & Kraus, YouthPLAYS, 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](http://www.tameddaugh.com).