

EXCERPT



# THE MOON RIVER RAFT

*a dark comedy*

BY

TARA MEDDAUGH

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A short dark comedy

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*Special thanks to*

Kevin Snipes, Mike Bouteneff, Gabe Davis, Peter Andrews, Brenda Hettmansberger, Missy Flower, Kelly Kirby, Alan Lutwin, Anne Carpenter, Dylan B., Luke B.

**EXCERPT**

THE MOON RIVER RAFT was first performed on November 11, 2022 in Ossining, NY. It was produced by Westchester Collaborative Theater with the following cast:

Meredith.....Missy Flower  
Selina.....Kelly Kirby

Directed by Brenda Hettmansberger

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#### Character Breakdown

MEREDITH	FEMALE (could be MALE). A young rabbit. Strong sense of loyalty and love for her sister. Spooked by the riverbank at night.
SELINA	FEMALE (could be MALE). A young rabbit. Injured and in pain with a broken leg (aka – a death sentence for a wild rabbit), although previously considered a leader/strong rabbit. Hurt and scared on some levels, but also holds onto a kind of hope and excitement.

#### Setting

Outdoors, in a forest. Near a riverbank. Night time.

## EXCERPT

AT RISE: Night time by a riverbank in the woods. It is dark, but there is a full moon. SELINA, a rabbit with a broken leg, sits or lies in the grass/weeds by the riverbank. MEREDITH, her sister, enters cautiously, fearful of the night and what she may find. She has been looking for Selina.

MEREDITH

(spots Selina's ears peeking out over the tall weeds)

Selina? Are those—are those your ears over the grass?

(moves very slowly, cautiously)

Please-don't-be-a-mountain-lion-please-don't-be-a-mountain-lion—

(sees better)

I know those tips! I know those cotton white ear tips!

(moves more quickly)

Just don't be dead, Selina...Don't be dead by this very scary river...

(reaches her)

Selina?

(SELINA looks at her, relieved for a moment—but then turns away)

Selina! It's me! Look at the spot on my nose! It's your sister!

SELINA

I know who you are, Meredith. My leg is broken, not my eyes.

MEREDITH

You're alive!

(touches her, maybe embraces her. Examining her in relief/excitement).

Your fur! I mean, it stinks, but it's not bloodied! No blood is good, Selina! The other rabbits said you'd be a pile of bloodied matted fur by sunset and, I mean, your fur is matted, let's be honest, we should do something about that, but it's not bloodied! I told them you wouldn't be bloodied! They said you were the weakest now and would get us all killed, but I told them you were the strongest, because no one else was willing to climb the apple tree to get food for us, even though you fell and broke your leg. So they said I was the dumbest to ignore Nature's Course, but I wasn't dumb because I was right! I was right! I can't wait to tell them! You're not bloodied! This is a very good sign!

(SELINA stands and walks over a foot or two, away from Meredith, then sits down again, back to her)

You broke your leg way back at High Sun and you made it basically all day, being alive the whole time! Don't you think that's a good sign too?

(pause)

Are you going to keep ignoring me?

SELINA

(pause)

Thank you, Meredith. For complimenting the fact that I'm not dead.

MEREDITH

Well, it is a big deal that—

SELINA

I know it's a big deal. And it'll be an even bigger deal if I survive tonight—

MEREDITH

And you will! You have me with you now!

SELINA

What are you going to do? Fight off coyotes with your little bunny paws? Or, maybe you'll just leave me in a tree stump and then abandon me? Oh, wait—you already did that.

MEREDITH

What do—I didn't abandon you, Selina. When all the other rabbits ran away, I put you in the tree stump so you could hide from those dogs. I know you can't run anymore so—

SELINA

You told me you'd come back for me and you never did. But I get it. I'm an invalid, a target of death. That's why they all left me. Why would you be any different?

MEREDITH

Don't lump me in with them! Who sleeps with you every night and grooms you every day? You know I'm different! Do you see all the mud in my fur? Probably ticks too—I haven't had time to clean. I tried to get to you sooner, Selina—as soon as the dogs left. But the other rabbits trapped me in a pit. They said it was a game, but I've never heard of "Pit Trap Meredith." Have you?

(SELINA shakes her head)

They wouldn't let me out until sunset but as soon as they did, I went straight to the tree stump and looked for you over and over. But you wouldn't know that because you didn't wait for me. Instead, you left and came to this very creepy river.

(pause)

So maybe *you* abandoned *me*.

SELINA

(pause)

When you didn't come back—



MEREDITH

I did—

SELINA

When I *thought* you didn't come back...I was afraid you were dead, Meredith.

MEREDITH

When I saw you weren't in the tree stump, I was afraid *you* were dead.

(they move closer to each other)

Maybe I can't fight off coyotes, okay, that's true. But I can keep hiding you in tree stumps.

SELINA

I don't want to live in a tree stump, all alone.

MEREDITH

There wouldn't be room for me to sleep there too but I'd visit you all the time! Remember when I was little and all the other siblings used to bite my back every time I even entered the burrow to snuggle Mama?

SELINA

That was some bloodied fur. And you never got to eat.

MEREDITH

I thought I'd starve to death. But—you put me in that...remember, Selina? You put me in that tree stump. And brought me clover and bark every day until I was big enough to find food for myself.

SELINA

Well—being with you in the tree stump was much better than the burrow with the rest of the litter.

MEREDITH

Those days I was in the tree stump...it was dark, but...I felt safe. And...even if no one else wanted me to survive...I knew that you did.

(pause)

Living in a tree stump is really not that bad.

(pause)

SELINA

Well. You don't have to live in a tree stump anymore. Do you.

MEREDITH

Okay, well. How is living here, at this muddy riverbank, any better? This seems like a terrible place to live.

SELINA

I'm not going to live here. I'm just waiting here.

MEREDITH

Waiting for what?

SELINA

I'm not supposed to tell you.

MEREDITH

Why not?

SELINA

It's a...it's a secret the elder-rabbits told me. They came to me in the tree stump and...

MEREDITH

Is it a bad secret?

SELINA

No, it's good. I mean, it's really really good. Like the best thing in the world ever.

MEREDITH

I like good things!

SELINA

But the elder-rabbits only tell the Woundeds.

MEREDITH

Well...I'm the sibling of a Wounded!

SELINA

I have a lot of siblings.

MEREDITH

But I'm the nice one!

(pause)

SELINA

I'll tell you, Meredith. I want to tell you—but you have to promise not to tell anyone else.

MEREDITH

Who would I tell? You're the only one I like!  
(crosses her heart)  
On Mama's skeleton!

SELINA

Okay...  
(MEREDITH leans in)  
I'm waiting for the Moon River Raft.

## END OF EXCERPT

For the complete play, [The Moon River Raft, visit:](https://www.tameddaugh.com/the-moon-river-raft-a-short-dark-comedy)

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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, 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).

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