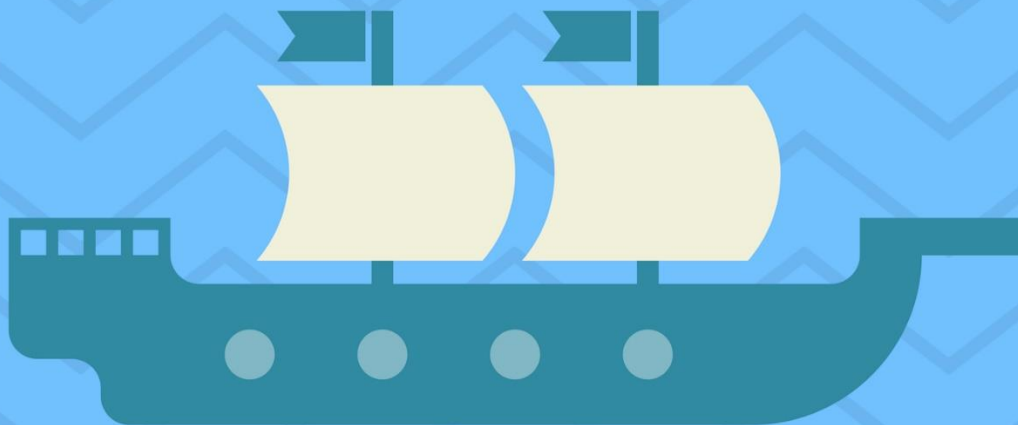


A FIVE-MINUTE PLAY

# THE SHIPWRECK SOLUTION

BY TARA MEDDAUGH

EXCERPT



The Shipwreck Solution  
by  
Tara Meddaugh

A five-minute play

**EXCERPT**

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MEET THE CHARACTERS

ANGLERFISH (male or female) A fish from the dark Midnight Zone who tries to keep all the creatures on task.

MAKO SHARK (male or female) The fastest shark, and proud of it!

TIGER SHARK (male or female) A tough shark who will eat anything! A bit grumpy but willing to work together, if needed.

BOX JELLYFISH (male or female) A good-natured but deadly creature with no centralized brain!

SETTING: A shipwreck in the ocean.

TIME PERIOD: Any time period.

THE SHIPWRECK SOLUTION

AT RISE: A shipwreck at the bottom of the ocean. ANGLERFISH, MAKO SHARK, TIGER SHARK, and BOX JELLYFISH are exploring the shipwreck. They aren't exactly friends with each other...let's just say, they **co-exist**. More accurately, let's just say, they're *trying* to co-exist!

ANGLERFISH

We've been here at the shipwreck all day and we've gotten no where!

MAKO SHARK

Maybe *you've* gotten no where, but in the last two hours, I swam all the way to the coast and back! That's 50 miles!

TIGER SHARK

So you're fast. We all get that, Mako Shark.

BOX JELLYFISH

Being fast is fun!

MAKO SHARK

Not just fast. The fastest shark. I can even get over 40 miles per hour if I want.

TIGER SHARK

Yes, the fastest shark. Good for you.

ANGLERFISH

Maybe if you hadn't taken off swimming for two hours, we could have all come to a decision by now.

BOX JELLYFISH

I've decided this will be my home. Nice home.

TIGER SHARK

No one has agreed on that, Box Jellyfish!

BOX JELLYFISH

*I* agree.

MAKO SHARK

You can't agree with yourself!

BOX JELLYFISH

Yet somehow I do!

ANGLERFISH

We all want to live here, Box Jellyfish. We know that. That's the problem. Now we need to stop playing around and find a solution.

TIGER SHARK

Why do you even want to live in this shipwreck, Anglerfish? Aren't you supposed to live down in the **Midnight Zone**?

ANGLERFISH

But it's so cozy and bright up here in the **Sunlight Zone**.

MAKO SHARK

You don't need it to be bright. Your head has that fishing rod thing with a light on it.

TIGER SHARK

Okay. Here are our options. You let me have this shipwreck for my new home, or I'll eat all of you.

ANGLERFISH

I don't like that idea.

BOX JELLYFISH

You try to eat me, I sting you.

MAKO SHARK

Watch out, Tiger Shark. The box jellyfish is one of the most **venomous** creatures in the world.

ANGLERFISH

You'd be dead within minutes.

BOX JELLYFISH

Dead, dead, dead.

MAKO SHARK

But hey, with Tiger Shark and Box Jellyfish dead, then I could live in the shipwreck!

ANGLERFISH

Or I could!

TIGER SHARK

Not if I ate the two of you first!

ANGLERFISH

Then we would all wind up dead and dolphins would probably find the shipwreck. Do you want that to happen?

TIGER SHARK /BOX/MAKO SHARK

Not the dolphins!

TIGER SHARK

They can't even breathe under water!

BOX JELLYFISH

No dolphins!

MAKO SHARK

**Mammals** don't belong here!

TIGER SHARK

Except as dinner.

ANGLERFISH

Okay, so we agree on that.

BOX JELLYFISH

No dolphins.

TIGER SHARK

Fine. I guess I won't eat all of you.

ANGLERFISH

Can we live together?

TIGER SHARK

I'd probably end up eating you if I lived with you, Anglerfish. Sorry.

ANGLERFISH

I understand. I know you eat everything. Even tires and boots.

BOX JELLY

What are boots?

ANGLERFISH

They're these things that—



TIGER SHARK

Don't bother explaining. Box Jelly has no brain.

BOX JELLYFISH

But I have 24 eyes!

MAKO SHARK

I have an idea!

# END OF EXCERPT

For more information on *The Shipwreck Solution*, or to purchase the entire play, visit:

<http://www.tameddaugh.com/the-shipwreck-solution>