

Drama/ Comedy

The Statistics Aren't Real

From

Jumping the Wind

By Tara Meddaugh

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You may find the complete play, *Jumping the Wind*, at:
www.tarmeddaugh.com/jumping-the-wind

About the play:

Pollen K-10 and Pollen V-6 are the last two remaining pieces of pollen on a dying flower, and they now must make the treacherous jump from the dying flower to a fresh one. Pollen K-10 has taught flower-jumping courses to the pollen in order to make their jumps successful, yet Pollen V-6 is terrified to jump the next wind, afraid of falling and being lost forever. As the leader of the pollen, Pollen K-10 risks his own safety, remaining to help her make this jump. The winds are fading, the flower will be destroyed by Cat that night, and Pollen V-6 doesn't look any closer to jumping.

About the monologue:

Pollen K-10 cites various statistics which prove that since he has started his flower jumping course, the rate of pollen falling to their demise during jumps has dramatically decreased. In fact, the rate of success now is astoundingly high and should be encouraging to Pollen V-6, who is terrified to jump from the dying flower to a fresh flower. Pollen K-10 has never revealed where he has received these statistics, and Pollen V-6 begs him to tell her where he has gotten them from. She will make the jump during the next wind, but needs to know this information. She needs to know the truth.

POLLEN K-10

The statistics aren't real. I made them up.

(brief pause)

Please don't lose faith in me, Pollen V-6! I tried to get the statistics! I really tried! I asked the flies, but they're too fickle. They forget what I've asked them to do almost immediately after they leave, and they don't remember me when they return. The friendlier bees tried to help, but then, even the most honorable ones told me upfront there was a conflict of interest. The

birds don't care. The Talls don't understand us. There was nowhere for me to get the statistics. The statistics aren't real...but...

(pause)

The statistics are true. Pollens survive the ride so much more than they used to, because they believe they can. They believe they're prepared, and they believe the pollens before them who took the training were prepared. And they really are prepared! I've dedicated my life to this training—the hovers, and the hop hops, the glides and the watch-outs! There is a purpose to every exercise. This training isn't for nothing because I know—you might not know, but I know, Pollen V-6—they are truly prepared. Like you are. So they believe they will make it.

(pause)

And I believe we will make it.

(pause)

The final wind before nightfall is coming. This is our last chance, and I'm waiting for you. Are you ready? It's coming.

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To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tarmeddaugh.com.

To read the entire play, *Jumping the Wind*, from which this monologue came, visit:

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